



The Muscogee Nation News

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January 1998, 12 pages

Newly-elected National Council leading tribe to end of millennium

OKMULGEE — The 26-member, 1998-1999 Muscogee National Council accepted the oath of office during a Jan. 3 special session as a result of the Oct. 25 primary and Dec. 6 general elections.

In the primary election:

- Okmulgee District Seat A candidate Rocky McIntosh withdrew from the race;
- Tukvptce District Seat B candidate David Yargee did not meet the residency requirement for district representative, voiding the race for that seat;
- Okfuskee District Seat C incumbent Clyde Johnson filed a protest citing irregularities, as well as a recount, in his race against opponent Bill Fife; and
- Okmulgee District Seat B incumbent Anderson Hale filed a protest citing irregularities in his race also.

The Muscogee Nation Supreme Court ordered that a petition for recount for the Oct. 25 primary election for National Council Okfuskee District Seat C would not be held because of improperly preserved ballot boxes.

In a separate order, tribal district court Judge Patrick Moore decreed that the results of the primary election for Okfuskee District Seat C remain as reported by the tribal election board.

The order stated the petitioner failed to establish an irregularity sufficient to change the ultimate result of the vote totals.

The National Council elected its leadership on Jan. 3 also; they are: Speaker, Kenneth Childers; Second Speaker, Bill Fife; and Sergeant-at-arms, Richard Berryhill.

Final election results are:

Creek District

Seat A

George Tiger — 187
Earl Wheeler — 120

Seat B

Roger Barnett — 195
Duke Harjo — 111

Seat C

Roy Bear — 182
Phyllis Warrington — 121

McIntosh District

Seat B

Wilbur Gouge — 204
Wilson Bear — 145

Okmulgee District

Seat A

David Lewis — 266
Richard Larney — 168

Seat B

Jim Harjo — 215
Eastman Whitlow — 212

Seat C

Abe McIntosh — 350
Jason Nichols — 239

Seat D

A.D. Ellis — 295
Florence July — 140

Seat E

David Nichols — 335
Shirley Almerigi — 269

Okfuskee District

Seat A

Famous Marshall — 177
Nancy Watson — 165

please see **ELECTION...**, page 9



photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Tribal citizens Leo Bland, left, and George Doyle, right, received overdue medals for their actions during World War II. Billy H. Grant, Department of Oklahoma Commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, center, presented Bland with a Purple Heart Medal. Doyle, a Navy veteran, was presented with American Campaign, Asiatic Campaign, and Good Conduct medals. Presentations were made at a ceremony held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 577, Tulsa, in January. Doyle, of Coweta, was featured in the November 1995 issue of *The Muscogee Nation News*. Bland, a Glenpool resident, will be featured in the February issue of *The MNN*.

Former principal chief dies

OKMULGEE — The first Muscogee (Creek) Principal Chief elected since statehood died Dec. 11 at his home.

Claude Allen Cox was elected to five consecutive, four-year terms before retiring in 1991.

With the passage of the Five Civilized Tribes Act in 1970, the tribe began electing its political leaders. Cox assumed leadership in 1971, a new era of tribal government where tribal affairs were re-

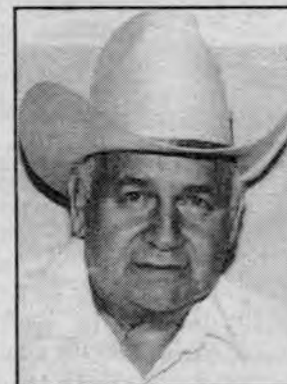
turned to Muscogee citizens.

Cox began rebuilding tribal government by working on land claims, health services, and housing, as well as securing federal, social, and welfare services. He was instrumental in reestablishing the tribal land base as well as Muscogee capitol with the construction of tribal headquarters.

Cox tested the limits of tribal sovereignty by establishing bingo halls within Muscogee Nation. He defended successfully the tribes right to conduct gaming at the Supreme Court level. Its ruling reaffirmed tribal sovereignty and became a standard for protecting the rights of Oklahoma tribes in the area of gaming.

After 30 years of employment with Public Service of Oklahoma, Cox retired in 1974.

please see **COX...**, page 9



Cox

Letters to the editor

Newly-elected Council member thanks voters Editor:

I would like to thank Creek District voters for providing me with the opportunity to represent them on the National Council. As a representative, I will try to meet your expectations.

I encourage citizens to assume an active role in tribal government by: knowing your rights as a tribal citizen — learn the tribal Constitution and laws; being aware of current tribal issues — contact elected officials, hold them accountable, attend committee meetings, regular and special sessions; and lobbying elected officials to write or support legislation that is important to your community, ceremonial ground, and-or church.

Again, *myto*.

Roger Barnett, Bristow

Editor's note: Barnett was elected to serve as representative to Creek District, Seat B in the Oct. 25 primary election.

Man seeks WW II experiences from natives

Editor:

I'm an American Indian researching the native experience during World War II and would like to hear from native people who will relate memories from this era.

If you are a survivor, friend, or descendant of an American Indian who would have had WW II stories to share. I would like to preserve this research in the form of an article or book that will be donated to a native archive or library.

Write: Robert Clark, P.O. Box 315, Granite, IL 62040.

Robert J. Clark, Granite City, Ill.

Man reminds employees his head count counts Editor:

It's a shame how Muscogee senior citizens are ignored by tribal employees when asked for assistance.

At the time a petition to remove Principal Chief Perry Beaver from office was being circulated, I approached an employee to discuss land business. Instead of being professional, she said, 'I'll tell you right now, I say no if it's about [the] petition.' So, I went outside of the tribe to find my answer. I would like to remind employees that my head count makes it possible for them to have jobs, full stomachs, and cars with Creek Nation tags.

Charlie Coker, Haskell

Editor's note: Coker was one of three citizens that filed notice of intent to circulate a removal petition with the tribal election board in April for Principal Chief Perry Beaver.

Seniors thank blanket raffle supporters

Editor:

We would like to thank those that purchased tickets for our Indian quilt drawing.

The winner, Donna Harjo of Wewoka, was announced at our annual Thanksgiving dinner.

We offer our gratitude to Millie Hill of Okemah who made and donated the beautiful quilt. We would like to thank Loretta Lee of Tulsa for helping our class sell tickets also. This was our first fund-raiser for our senior trip and it was a success. Thanks to all.

Creek Nation Boarding School seniors, Eufaula

Utah woman seeks genealogy information

Editor:

I am trying to find information on my grandmother's

people. They lived in Muskogee in the 1800s.

I am interested in documents, old addresses, and any information pertaining to the following: James Lewis Ezell; Martha Elizabeth Kelly Ezell; Rhode Ezell; S.B. Patterson; David McManus; Ben Henry Smith; Mollie and Polly Smith, twins; John Henry Smith; Edna Elizabeth McManus Smith. I would like information regarding Cherokees being given armed escort out of Muskogee also. Also, I would like to trade or buy a good-sounding reed flute. Write: Jennette Hunt, 810 River Drive, Ogden, UT 84404.

Jennette Hunt, Ogden, Utah

Representative thanks voters for support

Editor:

I would like to thank all Okfuskee District citizens that have supported me during my tenure as Okfuskee District representative Seat C. Serving you for the last 12 years has been a rewarding experience.

Clyde Johnson, Okemah

Editor's note: Clyde Johnson was defeated in his bid for reelection.

Student thanks tribe, family, friends for support

Editor:

I am a sophomore at Merced College, Merced, Calif. Last summer I held an Indian taco sale and fastpitch tournament to assist with my school expenses.

I would like to thank the tribe for allowing me to setup the food sale in the independent agencies (mound) building lobby. Thank you to those that supported me by purchasing a taco. Special thanks is extended to my aunts, Georgeanne Delaune and Esther Bell, for their help. I want to thank my uncle, Kelly Bell, and his team for participating in the tournament.

Also, I would like to thank Chanenna Davis, tribal higher education manager, for her assistance.

Hiyadeja Jones, Broken Bow

Citizen wants uncle to have new home

Editor:

On behalf of my uncle, Roman Bruner, an original allottee, I would like to address an issue regarding his

Legal notice

Printed in The Muscogee Nation News, volume 27, issue 1, January 1998.

In the matter of L.T.S., minor Muscogee (Creek) child, case no. JV 97-07.

Notice of hearing to Diane Schexnider and Gene Bloomfield, parents of L.T.S.

You are hereby given notice of a hearing on the above-styled and numbered case for the purpose of adjudication-disposition of your parental rights in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 13th day of February 1998 at 9 a.m.

You are hereby informed that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain a ward of the court and custody be continued in the children and family services administration program for continued foster placement or possible pre-adoptive placement.

You are further informed that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

I have hereunto set my hand this 19th day of January, 1998.

(s) Patrick E. Moore, district court judge

inability to obtain a home through Creek Nation Housing Authority.

He submitted an application for a home when he was age 65 and was rejected because they believed he would not live long enough to pay for it. He has reapplied in the last few years and has been told that his file is not thick enough. Had he been built a home when he originally applied, it would be paid for now. He has resided in his home since 1929; it is substandard and energy wasteful.

We, his family, hope that he will be living in a new home by May 16, 1998 — his 100th birthday.

Abbie Larney, Holdenville

Pastor encourages readers to use talents for God

Editor:

Jesus said we must work while it is day; night cometh when no man can work. He gave us command to occupy until he comes also.

He gave us talents to use; those who use their talents and are faithful are given more. Jesus also gave us the parables of the vineyard — he said to cut off the tree that was not fruitful because it cumbereth the ground. I believe these are truths we should understand and live by, so we may be fruitful unto God.

Pumet emvtotketv toyekv, Klist Cesvs ofvn hocackvtet, mvofvn fulleyvren.

Rev. Alex Lowe, Holdenville

please see **LETTERS...**, page 12

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News**, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

James Wolfe, managing editor
Stephanie Berryhill, senior staff writer
Summer Barnes, secretary

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following are the actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the: Sept. 11 special session; Sept. 27 regular session; Oct. 25 quarterly session; and Nov. 22 regular session.

Sept. 11 special session

Absent: **Bible**, Tulsa; **Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Pickering**, McIntosh; and **Tiger**, Creek.

A motion was carried to convene in executive session with Council to discuss NCA 97-95 — authorizing **Principal Chief Perry Beaver** to take action to protect the Nation's rights and interests under its compact of self-governance with the U.S. and annual funding agreements. It amends sections of National Council Act 97-14 and NCA 97-52 and authorizes the expenditure of funds set aside in NCA 92-90 and NCA 92-220.

After the executive session, a motion was carried to convene in session as a committee as a whole. Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh, relinquished the chair to Second Speaker **Earl Wheeler**, Creek, to discuss NCA 97-95.

Thlopthlocco, a federally recognized tribal town of the confederated Mvskokvlke, has filed suit in U.S. District Court against U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt. The suit is attributed to Babbitt's lack of response to the town's contracting proposal to administer programs under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act and for compacting with the Muscogee Nation for self-governance funds.

In NCA 97-14, as amended by NCA 97-52, the Council appropriated \$60,000 from the lobbying and litigation

Newly-elected National Council accepts the oath of office

OKMULGEE — The 10th session of the Muscogee National Council commenced with the swearing-in of newly-elected members by Muscogee Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Wiley and Justice Amos McNac.

Taking the oath of office are pictured, left to right, front row: **Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes** • Richard Berryhill, Coweta; Barbara Gillespie, Okmulgee District • David Nichols, Okmulgee; A.D. Ellis, Okmulgee; Abe McIntosh, Okmulgee; Dave Lewis, Yardeka; Jim Harjo, Okmulgee; **Muskogee District** • Harley Little, Muskogee; Helen Chupco, Muskogee; **Creek District** • Roy Bear, Bristow; Roger Barnett, Bristow; and George Tiger, Kellyville; second row, **McIntosh District** • Wilbur Gouge, Hanna; Thomas McIntosh, Stidham; Tom Pickering, Eufaula; **Okfuskee District** • Famous Marshall, Okemah; Bruce Smith, Weleetka; Bill Fife, Weleetka; **Tukvptce District** • Dwayne Lowe, Wetumka; Thomas Yahola, Wetumka; Johnson Buck, Holdenville; **Tulsa District** • Larry Bible, Glenpool; Earl King, Tulsa; Robert Hufft, Tulsa; Kenneth Childers, Glenpool; and Jess Kelley, Tulsa.



photo by Stephanie Berryhill

fund for legal services to protect the Nation's interests in Hanna and Wetumka projects.

The bill proposed NCA 97-52 be amended to authorize the principal chief to use fund monies to protect land and-or mineral resources in Hanna, Wetumka, and Okemah projects and rights and interests under its self-governance compact and annual funding agreements.

The amendment authorizes the principal chief to expend litigation funds for defense of the Nation's sovereignty and jurisdiction over tribal and-or governmental programs and projects conducted within tribal boundaries.

• Approving (19-0-2) NCA 97-95 were (representatives listed alphabetically, followed by district): **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Steve Bruner**, Tulsa; **Johnson Buck**, Tukvptce; **Helen Chupco**, Muskogee; **A.D. Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Anderson Hale**, Okmulgee; **Clyde Johnson**, Okfuskee; **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa; **Dave Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Harley Little**, Muskogee; **Abe McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Bruce Smith**, Okfuskee; **Phyllis Warrington**, Creek; **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee; **Wheeler**, Creek; and **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce;

Abstaining were: **Irene Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Ron Cleghorn**, Tulsa. Speaker **Gouge** reassumed the chair and did not vote;

• NCA 97-97 — appropriating monies to complete Fiscal Year 1997 Comprehensive Annual Budget funding for the tribal burial program was approved unanimously (21-0) with amendments;

Gillespie, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes, motioned to amend the appropriation from \$13,000 to \$30,000 with the funding source being specified as interest on the permanent fund account. It was amended unanimously (21-0);

• approved unanimously (21-0) Tribal Resolution 97-18 — authorizing the principal chief to negotiate and execute a memorandum of agreement with the City of Muskogee to settle condemnation actions initiated by the city against the Secretary of the Interior, the Muscogee Nation, and others in district court. The city seeks to condemn and quiet title to railroad lands within the city for restoration of historical buildings and its downtown area. The city has proposed to settle actions

Please see **COUNCIL**..., page 9

Former speaker, principal chief to lead Council

OKMULGEE — Kenneth Childers and Bill Fife were elected to Council leadership positions of speaker and second speaker, respectively, immediately following the oath of office.

Richard Berryhill, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes District, was reelected as sergeant-at-arms.

Childers, Tulsa District, served as speaker for the first session, 1980-81, of the National Council following the ratification of the Constitution in 1979. He served on the Council during the: second session, 1982-83; fourth session, 1986-87; fifth session, 1988-89; and sixth session, 1990-91. Childers served as chair of the Creek Nation Housing Authority Board of Commissioners from 1992 to 1995. He was a member of the tribal gaming operations authority board for two terms also

Fife served as representative to Okfuskee District during the fifth and sixth sessions. He was elected principal chief in 1991 and served the term of 1992 through 1995. He ran for the office of principal chief again in 1995 and was defeated by Perry Beaver. Fife served as tribal affairs director under the tenure of former Principal Chief Claude Cox.

"With the prior experience of both the speaker and second speaker, as well as the prior experience of all

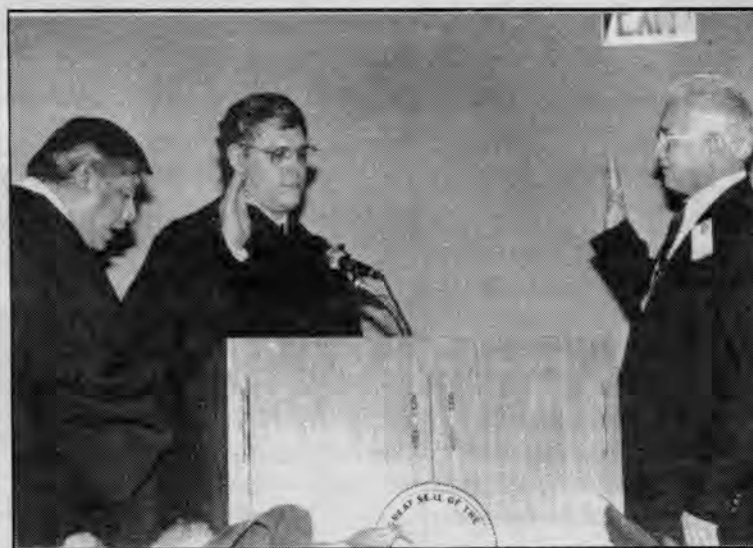


photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Muscogee Nation Supreme Court Justice Amos McNac, left, administers the oath of office to Speaker Kenneth Childers, right, in the Mvskoke language. It preceded the English version administered by Chief Justice Roger Wiley.

the Council members, the legislative branch of this government is well equipped to execute their duties and uphold the Constitution of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation," Childers said.

Programs-notices

Head Start announces food care program

OKMULGEE — Creek Nation Head Start's Eufaula, Holdenville, Okmulgee, and Sapulpa centers announce its participation in the child and adult food care program.

All participants in attendance will be offered the same meals at no separate charge and with no physical segregation of, or other discrimination against, any participant because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. The child and adult food care program is an equal opportunity program.

Individuals that believe they have been discriminated because of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability are encouraged to write: State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs, 2500 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City OK 73105-4599; or, the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250.

Web page provides services, upcoming events

OKMULGEE — Information regarding tribal services and upcoming events are accessible on the Muscogee Nation web page through the Okmulgee County Electronic Village.

The tribal web page may be accessed through the address for the OCEV at: www.ocevnet.org.

Individuals that would like to subscribe to the World Wide Web may contact Wally Johnson, OCEV supervisor, at: (918) 756-6211, ext. 204.

Notices

Euchee Tribe to hold winter stompdance

KELLYVILLE — The Euchee Tribe is holding a winter stompdance on Feb. 7 at Kellyville Indian Community.

The doors will open at 6 p.m. A cake walk will begin at 7 p.m. The dance will be held from 8 p.m. to midnight. All leaders and shellshakers are invited to participate. Cake donations will be appreciated. Concessions will be provided. Proceeds will assist in funding the second Euchee Heritage Days Festival.

For more information, contact the Euchee United Cultural Historical Educational Effort office at (918) 224-3065.

Native American job fair to be held in Tulsa

TULSA — A Native American Job Fair for American Indians will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Feb. 25 at the Adam's Mark Hotel.

The recently enacted Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997 is making it possible for companies across Oklahoma to receive wage credits for employing American Indians. Corporate and business level recruiters throughout Oklahoma will setup booths to seek applications from Native Americans for all entry levels.

There is no charge for applicants or visitors. College students entering the job market, trade, or technical school graduates and those looking for jobs are encouraged to attend. Enrolled members of U.S. tribes are eligible to apply.

The Oklahoma Indian Times, in conjunction with: the Oklahoma Department of Commerce; Oklahoma Tribal Assistance Program; Oklahoma Native American Business Development Center; and the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission is hosting the fair.

Mobile child care resource unit program implemented

OKMULGEE — Information on early childhood education, training opportunities, as well as equipment accessibility are available through a mobile child care resource unit.

The program is being implemented by the tribal office of child care community outreach program. The unit is a mobile office staffed by a resource and referral specialist and-or provider or trainer. It is being sent out into the eight-county service area of the Muscogee Nation monthly.

The resource unit will provide comprehensive information on early childhood care and education and

training opportunities. Material such as quality indicators, check lists, licensing and subsidy information will be distributed. The unit houses a toy lending library with age and developmentally appropriate toys, a resource library, copier, laminator, computer, and printer.

Parents and providers active on the tribal child care assistance program will be allowed to check out toys and resource material for one month. They will have access to the copier, laminator, paper cutter, computer, and printer.

For more information, call: (918) 758-1463; or 1(800) 205-3705.

For more information, call 1 (888) 536-OKIT.

Native American AIDS-HIV cases reported

OAKLAND, Calif. — As of June 30, 1997, the cumulative growth in reported AIDS cases for Native Americans numbered at 1,677 compared to two in 1984.

Males account for 84 percent of these cases while females account for 16 percent, according to Center for Disease Control Statistics.

It estimates that from 1991 through 1996, deaths of Native Americans with AIDS number at 720.

American Indian and Alaska Native adult HIV infection transmission (only from states with confidential reporting) numbers attribute transmission to: male-male sex, 166; intravenous drug usage, 99; male-male sex and intravenous drug usage, 48; hemophilia, three; heterosexual sex, 68; blood transfusion, four; and unknown, 77.

Information about AIDS and HIV is available from: Oklahoma HIV-AIDS Hotline at, 1 (800) 535-AIDS; Native Americans may contact, Ahalaya Project, (405) 631-9988; CDC AIDS Hotline, 1 (800) 342-AIDS; National AIDS Clearinghouse, 1 (800) 458-5231; or HIV-AIDS Treatment Information Service, 1 (800) HIV-0440.

Foundation seeks participants in diabetes study

OKLAHOMA CITY — The clinical pharmacology program at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation is performing a major clinical trial in Type II diabetes.

Organization makes contribution to tribal angel tree project

Running Strong for American Indian Youth donated \$1,000 to Muscogee Nation Children and Family Services Administration recently.

The donation assisted the administration in purchasing gifts and providing a Christmas party for its program children.

Advisory board member Ethan Bigpond, third from left, presents the check to child treatment specialist coordinator Nancy Mason, second from left, while manager David James, extreme left, and Indian child welfare coordinator Jack Sunagoowie, far right, observe.



photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Student review

Citizen graduates from Amherst College

AMHERST, Mass. — Laura Lee Hart graduated from Amherst College with a bachelor of arts degree in German studies and English literature.

Hart was active in debate club and was vice-president during her senior year. Hart was cofounder of the first American Indian organization on campus. She was employed with the Oklahoma Supreme Court during summer breaks.

Hart is a graduate of Bishop McGuinness High School in Oklahoma City.

She is employed in Hamburg, Germany where she intends to pursue her studies further as well as travel.

She is the daughter of Carol Hart of Oklahoma City and Marshall L. Hart of Tulsa. She is the granddaughter of the late Joe and Marie Childers Cochran, Tulsa. Her great-grandparents are the late William and Annie Cloud Childers.

Mvskoke student plays basketball for Merced

MERCED, Calif. — Broken Bow High School graduate Hiyadeja Jones has filled the role of Merced Junior College's "sixth man" since last year.

Jones played as shooting guard and as a point guard briefly for the Lady Blue Devils. Through 14 games, Jones averaged nine points. She was the team leader in the three-point field goal percentage as well as the two-point percentage. Her team lost six games last year, advancing to the final four of the national tournament.

Jones plans to complete her junior college career at Merced and hopes to play for Oklahoma State University. Her second option is to play for a school in California.

Jones, a physical education major, plans on a career as a high school basketball coach.

She is the daughter of Marcella and Billy Ray Jones of Broken Bow. She is the granddaughter of Lucille Bear of Wilson community.

Bixby girl chosen student of the month

BIXBY — Kelsey Proctor was chosen October student of the month at Brown Primary Center.

Proctor is in kindergarten. She is the daughter of Darrell and Robin Proctor of Bixby.

She is the granddaughter of James and Pat Berry of Hanna, and Minnie Proctor of Tulsa.

She is the great-granddaughter of Marie Spear of Hanna.

Opportunities

Tribe accepting applications for grant

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Higher Education Department is accepting applications for the 1998-99 academic year.

To apply, students should:

- possess Certificate Degree of Indian Blood and tribal citizenship cards;
- be planning to attend and accredited two-year junior college or four-year university located within the U.S.; and
- apply for federal financial aid at their college or university and complete the Federal Aid Financial Student Application form to be eligible for the Self Govern-

Cousins help Depew Lady Hornets win district tournament

DEPEW — Five Muscogee cousins were instrumental in helping the Depew Lady Hornets softball team win its district tournament for the last two years.

At the Friscoe Conference, ShaRee Hill was named all conference and Georgia Horse was named honorable mention.

Beverly and Sabrina Hill are the daughters of Solomon Hill and Kim Hill, both of Bristow.

ShaRee and Shalae Hill are: daughters of David and Monica Hill of Depew; granddaughters of Connie Baker of Depew; and great-granddaughters of Tom Watson of Bristow.

Horse is the daughter of Dewey and Jeanette Horse of Bristow. JoAnn Powell of Bristow is the grandmother of the girls.

Left to right, front row, are: Sabrina Hill and Georgia Horse; back row are, ShaRee Hill, Beverly Hill, and Shalae Hill.



nance Higher Education grant.

Applications will be mailed from February through May 31. Written requests should be submitted to receive an application. Students may apply for the Self Governance Higher Education Grant until June 1 and the Muscogee Nation Higher Education Tribal Grant until June 15.

Students receiving grants currently must submit recent grade reports or transcripts and meet requirements to receive a renewal form. Renewal forms will be mailed March 1 and should be returned by June 1.

For more information, contact the higher education office at: P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447; call, (918) 756-8700 or 1 (800) 482-1979, exts. 614, 615, 616.

Fellowships offered by United Methodist

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — United Methodist Communications is accepting applications for the agency's first Racial Ethnic Minority Fellowship.

The full-time, salaried, one-year fellowship will be given to a recent college or seminary graduate for a 12-month period beginning July 1. The salary will be \$30,000 plus benefits, moving expenses, and travel. Deadline for applications is March 30.

Two annual academic awards for study in religious journalism are being offered by United Methodist Communications for the 1998-99 academic year.

The \$6,000 Stooddy-West Fellowship is given for graduate study in journalism. It will assist a Christian engaged in religious journalism or one planning to enter the field.

The \$2,500 Leonard M. Perryman Communications Scholarship for ethnic minority students is designed to aid college juniors or seniors with the intent to pursue careers in religious communication.

Students enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education pursuing studies in audiovisual, electronic, and print media are eligible. The deadline for application is Feb. 15.

For more information, contact: REM Fellowship Committee or Fellowship Committee, United Methodist Communications, P.O. Box 320, Nashville, TN 37202-0320; e-mail at, REM@umcom.umd.org or Scholarships@umcom.umd.org.

Third Exemplary Institute to be held

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The third Exemplary Institute will be held Feb. 22 through 24 at the Wyndham

Albuquerque Hotel.

It purports to train educators of Indian children to teach students to read above grade level, reduce drop-out rates, get Indian students into Ivy League colleges, and raise attendance rates.

The institute is sponsored by the Native American Scholarship Fund and 21 schools in the Four Corners area.

For more information, contact: Native American Scholarship Fund, 8200 Mountain Road N.E., Suite 203, Albuquerque, NM 87110; call, (505) 262-2351; or e-mail, NASFI@aol.com.

Johnson O'Malley conference to be held

TULSA — The state Johnson O'Malley Conference, "Indian Education: Doing it Right," is being held March 23 through 26 at the downtown Doubletree Hotel.

The conference will provide an opportunity for Indian educators, parents, and tribal contractors to learn from each other and formulate strategies to enrich the educational experiences of Oklahoma Indian children, Phyllis Yargee, Cherokee Nation Copartners program manager, said.

For more information, contact Yargee at (918) 456-0671, ext. 2250.

Prep school offers diverse education for youth

ROWE, N.M. — The Native American Preparatory School has been operating for two years with the mission to provide students with college preparatory experience encompassing high academic achievement as well as respect and appreciation for native traditions.

Students attending the 1,600-acre campus in northern New Mexico represent 13 states and 33 tribal entities.

For more information, call: (505) 989-1733; or write, NAP Development Office, 355 E. Palace, Santa Fe, NM 87501.

Haskell alumni encouraged to form chapters

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The National Haskell Alumni Association is encouraging all alumni throughout the U.S. to start new chapters or join chartered groups.

Existing chapters are: Lawrence; Oklahoma; Palm Springs; Haskell Club of New Mexico; and Arizona.

For more information, contact Martha Houle, president, at: National Haskell Alumni Association, 11415 W. 67th St., Shawnee Mission, KS 66023; or call (913) 631-7833.

Arrivals

Elijah Barrett

OKMULGEE — Elijah Daniel Barrett was born April 5 at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to tribal citizens Daniel and Angela Barrett of Henryetta.

The baby weighed 7 pounds, 4 ounces.

He is the maternal grandson of Elizabeth Murphy of Henryetta. Paternal grandparents are Henry and Wanda Barrett of Henryetta.

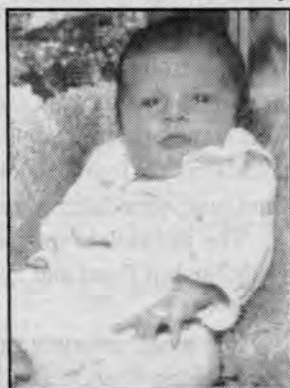
The baby has four sisters, Amberly, Ashley, Stacy, and Natasha.

Jennifer Cantrell

CLAREMORE — Jennifer June Cantrell was born Oct. 27 at Claremore Indian Health Center to Tommy and Dina Cantrell of Tiger Mountain.

She weighed 6 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19 inches in length.

Her paternal grandparents are Mary and the late Billy Cantrell of Valdosta, Ga. Maternal grandparents are Gene and the late Thelma Nelson of Okmulgee.



Cantrell

Autumn and Raini Deeringwater

TULSA — Autumn Lynn and Raini Tava Deeringwater were born Oct. 9 at St. John Medical Center to Craig and Melissa Deeringwater of Bristow.

A. Deeringwater weighed 4 pounds, 11 ounces and was 17 and three-fourths inches in length. R. Deeringwater weighed 4 pounds, 7 ounces and was 18 inches in length.

May Hughs of Niagara, N.D. is the maternal grandmother. Paternal grandparents are Gary and Jo Deeringwater of Bristow.

Paternal great-grandparents are the late Henry and Louise Deeringwater, Okemah.

The girls are descendents of the Wind Clan and Greenleaf Tribal Town.

Emmanuel Frye

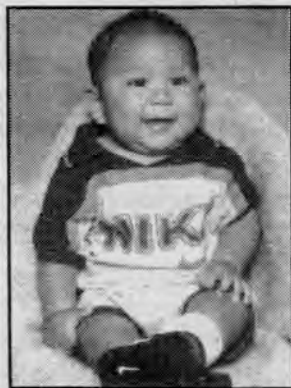
OKMULGEE — Emmanuel Jesus Frye was born April 23 at Okmulgee Memorial Hospital to Bea Frye of Henryetta.

The baby weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

He belongs to the Deer Clan and Ocevpofo Tribal Town.

Frye is the grandson of Bertha Frye of Henryetta.

His great-grandparents are the late Ella and Sandy Frye.



Frye

Isaiah George

ADA — Isaiah Caine George was born Dec. 28 at Valley View Regional Hospital to Rhonda Lowe and Danny George.

He weighed 6 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

Citizens celebrate wedding anniversaries

Kessler and Lucy Bigpond

BRISTOW — Kessler and Lucy James Bigpond celebrated their 79th wedding anniversary at their home on Aug. 29.

The couple married Aug. 29, 1925 in Holdenville.

They are the parents of: David James Bigpond of Bristow; Ethan Allen Bigpond of Okmulgee; Kessler Bigpond Jr. of Albuquerque, N.M.; Wendell Roman Bigpond of Sapulpa; and the late Cecelia Ann Bigpond. They have 19 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Herman and Margie Deere

JENKS — Herman and Margie Gartman Deere celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 26 at the Teacup with their immediate family.

Maternal grandparents are Katherine Lowe of Wetumka and the late Lloyd Lowe, Wetumka. Paternal grandparents are Debbie Whitt of Reno, Nev. and Gabe George of Dallas, Texas.

Serena Todd

TULSA — Serena Nicole Todd was born Sept. 5 to Dustin and Tricia Fields Todd of Tulsa.

She weighed 8 pounds and 7.6 ounces and was 19 and three-fourths inches in length.

Todd belongs to the Tiger Clan and Polecat Ceremonial Ground. She is of Muscogee, Pawnee, and Cherokee descent.

Maternal grandparents are Cheri Haney of Glenpool and Ira Fields Jr. of Tulsa. Paternal grandparents are Pam Smith of Glenpool and Dale Todd of Owasso.

Her maternal great-grandmother is Pauline Haney of Glenpool. Her great-great-grandparents are Elizabeth Tecumseh James and the late J.P. James, Tulsa.

Ahlesia Williams

ESCONDITO, Calif. — Ahlesia Opvny Williams was born Oct. 29 at Palomar Hospital to Shawn Williams and Nicole Green of Valley Center, Calif.

She weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

Williams belongs to the Coyote Clan and is the daughter of the Alligator Clan and Kasetv Tribal Town. She belongs to the Muscogee and Kumeyaay tribes.

She is the paternal granddaughter of Barton and Rita Williams of Wilson Community. Her maternal grandmother is Tilda Green of Valley Center.

Her paternal great-grandparents are Thomas and the late Blanche Berryhill of Wilson Community and the late Irvin and Alice Williams, Graham.



Williams

An open house was held at their home one week before their anniversary. They were honored at Mayfair Baptist Church of which Mrs. Deere is the only surviving charter member.

The couple met on a blind date over 51 years ago. He is retired from Unit Rig Equipment Co. and she is retired from CNG Producing Co. Mr. Deere is a life member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, having served during WWII in Iwo Jima and Japan. The couple enjoy travelling and flower and lawn gardening.

They have three children: Dale; Randy; and Teresa. They have nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He is the son of the late Willey and Gracie Sessions Deere; his stepmother is Elizabeth Deere of Eufaula.

for Geronimo Alexander.

Approximately 100 relatives and friends attended. Speakers at the event were: Norman C. Ribble, former potentate of Ballut Abyad Temple, New Mexico; Robert L. Bennett, former commissioner of Indian affairs and fellow Haskell Institute alumnus; O.K. Harris, metal sculptor; and Betty Deer Shannon.

The dinner was hosted by his son and daughter-in-law, Micco and Iris Alexander, of Minnesota.

Boy celebrates with birthday barbecue

BRISTOW — Gabriel Thompson Hicks celebrated his second birthday Aug. 31 with a barbecue attended by family and friends.

He is the son of Lesley Lindsey of Bristow.

His maternal grandparents are Thomas and Alice Lindsey of Bristow. Paternal grandparents are Benson and the late Norma Jean Hicks of Okemah.

Great-grandparents are the late Columbia and Amy Lindsey, Oklahoma City, and the late Fannie McNac Buckley, Weleetka.

Dustin toddler celebrates first year

DUSTIN — Desmon Noriega celebrated her first birthday Oct. 2.

She is the daughter of Samara Noriega of Dustin.

Her maternal grandmother is Carolyn Noriega of Tulsa. Bessie Proctor Noriega of Tulsa is her great-grandmother.

Baby celebrates with Minnie Mouse theme

OKMULGEE — Marissa Riann Proctor celebrated her first birthday on Sept. 26 at the home of her grandparents.

The Minnie Mouse theme party was attended by: parents, Marva and Brian Proctor; maternal grandparents, Joe and Flora Jackson of Okmulgee; paternal grandparents, Bill and Minnie Proctor of Dewar; aunts, Lora Jo and Lisa Jackson, both of Okmulgee, Billie Proctor of Dewar; and uncle, Byron Proctor, of Dewar.



Proctor

Birthdays

Ninth decade mark celebrated by elder

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A 90th birthday dinner was held at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Sept. 20

Obituaries

WOODROW BEAN

EUFULA — Funeral services for Woodrow Amos Bean were held Oct. 14 at Artussee Baptist Church.

He died Oct. 9 at his home. He was born May 11, 1923 in McIntosh County to Monday and Katie Polk Bean.

Bean is a former pastor of Artussee. The U.S. Navy veteran was a self-employed barber also.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; and a sister, Salena Pidgeon.

Survivors include: his wife, Pauline, of the home; stepsons, Arnold Fields of Eufaula and Elliott Fields of Elmer City, Wa.; and a niece, Lena Proctor of Dustin.

Interment was at Greenwood Cemetery in Eufaula.

PLESE BRIDGES

SAPULPA — Funeral services for Plese Calvin Bridges were held Oct. 22 at Little Cussetah Baptist Church with Revs. Felix Tiger and Truitt John officiating.

He died Oct. 19 at Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah. He was born Aug. 22, 1932.

Survivors include: a sister, Mildred Bridges of Tulsa; a brother, Jerry Bridges of Sand Springs; stepmother, Stella Bridges of Sand Springs; and one aunt, Nancy Coon of Berryhill.

Pallbearers were: Jack Sunagoowie; Ethan Allen Bigpond; Joe Bruner; Daniel Bruner; William Washington; and Lionel Watashe.

Interment was at Little Cussetah Cemetery.

CLAUDE COX

OKMULGEE — Funeral services for Claude Allen Cox were held Dec. 15 at Newtown United Methodist Church with Rev. Harry Long officiating and Revs. Joe Lowe, George Miller, and Dave Long Jr. officiating.

Cox lay in state at the Muskogee Nation Independent Agencies Auditorium on Dec. 13; a eulogy was read also.

Cox died Dec. 11 in Okmulgee. He was born June 8, 1913 in Okmulgee to Porter and Stella Haynes Cox. He was the grandson and great-grandson of Samuel Haynes and Elijah Lablanche; both had served as tribal judges at the turn of the century. Cox was a longtime member of Newtown church.

He was preceded in death by: his first wife, Louise, in 1965; and his second wife, Lillie, in 1997.

He is survived by: two daughters, Cogee Keith and Billie Sterner, both of Okmulgee; one sister, Anna Lee Gordon of Okmulgee; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Gary Breshears; Mark Downing; Buddy York; Cliff Mahan; David Bryant; James Floyd; Steve Wilson; and Jim Couch.

Interment was in Okmulgee Cemetery.

NOAH DEERE

MUSKOGEE — Noah Deere died Oct. 21 at a Muskogee hospital.

He was born Aug. 23, 1928 at Eufaula to Thomas and Lena Bear Deere.

Deere attended school at Jones Academy and Bacone College. He was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War.

Deere had resided in California where he managed a

service station. A 30-year Muskogee resident, he retired from the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1990.

He was an active member of Volunteers in Corrections, a group ministry to inmates. Deere was a member of the First Indian Baptist Church; he served as music director. He enjoyed singing and playing the piano.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; a brother, Wiley Deere; three half sisters, Eunice and Marguerite Deere, and Marion Jones; and a half brother, Joe Deere.

Survivors include: a sister, Naomi Thompson of Muskogee; two aunts, Mable Jones of Muskogee and Minnie Charles of Eufaula; three nephews, Johnny Lay of Oregon, John and George Deere of California; two nieces, Sue Vaughan of Missouri and Bettie Williston of Texas.

JAMES EDMONDSON

GYPSY — Funeral services for James Levi Edmondson were held Sept. 10 in the Gypsy School Gymnasium with Rev. Jack Davis officiating.

A prayer service was held Sept. 9 at Mutteloke United Methodist Church.

He died Sept. 5 at his Bristow residence. He was born Oct. 18, 1933 in Henryetta to James and Katie McNac Edmondson.

Edmondson had lived in the Bristow area since 1968. He was a custodian and bus driver for Gypsy School until retiring in 1993. He was a member of Mutteloke Church. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, and coaching little league baseball also.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; one daughter, Betty Jo; two grandchildren; and one brother.

Survivors include: his wife, Leah Ann Francis, of the home; three sons, James Levi Edmondson Jr. of Tulsa, and Ricky and Alvin Edmondson of the home; two daughters, Phyllis Burks of Depew, Luwanda Mason of Bristow; four sisters, Millie Ross, Mary Smith, Mamie Watkins, and Sally Edmondson, all of Elk City; 13 grandchildren; and a host of family and friends.

Interment was in Silver Spring Cemetery.

EMMANUEL HICKS

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Emmanuel Joseph "Bugs" Hicks were held Sept. 13 at Shurden Funeral Chapel with Rev. Bridge Chuckluck officiating and Revs. John Buckner and Willis W. Knight assisting.

Wake services were held at Sept. 12 at Shurden.

Hicks died Sept. 10 in Henryetta. He was born March 7, 1947 in Hoffman to George and Mollie Jones Hicks.

Hicks was a graduate of Star Spencer School in Oklahoma City. He attended Northeastern Oklahoma A & M, Miami, and Northeastern State University, Tahlequah, where he played football. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War.

Hicks was a past member of: the American Legion in Henryetta; Apekv Ceremonial Grounds; and the First Baptist Church, Spencer. He had been employed as caretaker for Dewar Indian Community Center.

He was preceded in death by: his mother; a sister, Pamela Kay Hicks; a brother, Monroe Hicks; his grandparents, Thomas and Mattie Harper Jones and Joe and Ella Coker Hicks.

Survivors include: his father and stepmother, Arnetta Hicks of Henryetta; two sisters, Lawaunta Soap of Muskogee and Lahoma Schultz of Broken Arrow; two brothers, Gary Hicks of Tulsa and Johnny Hicks of

Dewar; five nephews, Kevin Soap of Oktaha, Joe Hicks and Leroy Soap Jr., both of Muskogee, Cheyenne Donnell of Broken Arrow, and Ira Hicks of Jones; one niece, Faren Donnell of Broken Arrow; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Robert Hicks; Lewis Hicks; Jimmy Hicks; Lewis Bible Jr.; Paul Jones; and Dennis Bible. Honorary pallbearers were: Jimmy Spurlock; Wilson Jones; Tony "Red" Hicks; Houston Hicks; Adam Thomas Jr.; and Jerry Wayne Bible.

Burial was in New Sonora Cemetery.

POLLY HOMMA

OKMULGEE — Funeral services for Polly Miller Homma were held Sept. 18 at New Town United Methodist Church with Rev. Harry Long officiating and Rev. Joe Lowe Jr. assisting.

Wake services were held Sept. 17 at Kelley Funeral Home Chapel.

She died Sept. 14. Homma was born Feb. 18, 1900, northeast of Okmulgee, to Seborn and Effa Berryhill Miller. She was the granddaughter of Jefferson and Peggy Anderson Berryhill, and Samuel and Paula Whitebird Miller. She belonged to the Wind Clan and Kyncate Tribal Town. Homma was a valuable source of tribal and local history and folklore. She was a life-long, as well as the oldest, member of Tvlofv Mucvse [New Town] Church. She was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by: her parents; a husband, David Homma; one sister, Sarah Simmers; and two brothers, Sam and John Miller.

Survivors include: several nieces; and nephews.

Pallbearers were: Butch Powell; George Autaubo Jr.; Robert Kahbeah Jr.; Fred Van Woudenberg; Alfred Berryhill; and Edward Simmers.

Interment was in Okmulgee Cemetery.

SAM KELLEY

OKMULGEE — Funeral services for Sam Jefferson Kelley were held Oct. 15 at Belvin Baptist Church with Revs. Houston Tiger and Allison Phillips officiating.

Wake services were held Oct. 14 at Robert Simons Funeral Home Chapel in Henryetta.

He died Oct. 11 in Eufaula. He was born Dec. 11, 1937 to David and Lizzie Fields Kelley.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He was a counselor to substance abusers in the Wewoka area and an auto mechanic by trade. He had most recently resided in Henryetta. Kelley was a member of First Indian Baptist Church [Belvin Baptist], Okmulgee. He enjoyed attending Indian church services, fishing, and raccoon hunting.

He was preceded in death by: his father; one sister; two brothers; and two stepfathers.

Survivors include: three daughters, Wynona Harjo of Tulsa; Edna Ross of Okmulgee; and Rita Whittenburg of Tulsa; three brothers, Abelo Fields of Hitchita, Jim Kelley of Glenpool, and Mitchell Taylor of Henryetta; three sisters, Mary Kelley and Opal Rose, both of Henryetta, and Addie Lewis of Talala; wife, Rachael Barnett, of the home; and seven grandchildren, Mark, Jeffrey, Trae, Tiffany, Megan, Victoria, and Tiana.

Pallbearers were: Charles Sewell; Tim Harley Jr.; Chester Fields; Francis Wilson; Wesley Kemp; and Ronnie Smith. Honorary pallbearers were: Frankie Sewell; Roley Taylor; Robert Taylor; Solomon Monahwee; and Paul McNac.

Burial was in the Taylor Family Cemetery.

WASHIE LEWIS

EUFULA — Funeral services for Rev. Washie Lewis were held Sept. 20 at West Eufaula Baptist Church with Revs. Chris Harjo and George Jesse officiating.

A song service was held Sept. 22 at the church.

Lewis died Sept. 20 at Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah. He was born April 27, 1905 to Daniel and Polly Thompson Lewis near Eufaula. He belonged to the Turkey Clan and Eufaula Town.

Lewis was baptized Dec. 19, 1920. He joined West Eufaula Baptist Church on June 29, 1921. He received his high school diploma from Bacone [Bacone College] in 1927.

Lewis was licensed to preach in 1933 and was ordained in 1934. He was married to Salina Mae McIntosh on Jan. 12, 1935 at West Eufaula. That same year he began nine years of missionary work also.

He held many positions at West Eufaula as well as the Muscogee-Seminole-Wichita Indian Baptist Association, among them: West Eufaula pastor, intermittently for the last 50 years; MSW treasurer, 12 years; MSW Assembly Ground Committee treasurer, 26 years; Sunday school and Baptist Young Peoples Union Director, nine years.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; his wife; six brothers; and three sisters.

He is survived by: a daughter, Evelyn Bernice Narcomey of Salt Lake City, Utah; grandson, Anthony Mark Narcomey of Salt Lake City; three granddaughters, Blanche Liston of Centerville, Ohio, Carol Narcomey of Charlotte, N.C., and Rena Squier of Germany; and five great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Jeremiah Lewis; Clifford Lewis; Don Ade; Jon Tiger; Birdcreek Phillips; Daniel Barnett; and Dugan McIntosh. Honorary pallbearers were: Kenneth Tiger; G.W. McIntosh; and David Lewis.

Burial was in Greenwood Cemetery in Eufaula.

LENA MCELROY

OKLAHOMA CITY — Funeral services for Lena Sullivan McElroy were held Oct. 2 at Schumacher Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. Leon Postoak officiating.

She died Sept. 29 in Oklahoma City. She was born April 3, 1919 in Okemah to Lucinda Sue and William Sullivan.

She married Harry James McElroy in Okfuskee County. They relocated to Oklahoma City and resided there until their deaths.

She was a member of Central Baptist Church and participated at the Native American Center.

Preceding her in death were: her parents; husband; one son, Earl Dean McElroy; and one brother, Chapley Sullivan.

Survivors include: three sons, Wayne McElroy of Puallap, Wash., Norman McElroy of Lincoln, Neb., and James McElroy of Ada; three daughters, Pat Shuffield of Newalla, Eva Moore and Kay McElroy, both of the home; 17 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; three sisters, Sally Benefield of Chowchilla, Calif., Lucille Fleming of Summit, and Bobbie Walker of Claremore; and a host of family and friends.

Her grandsons served as pallbearers.

Interment was in Morse Cemetery.

KENDALL THOMPSON

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Kendall Cevyn Thompson were held Oct. 4 at the Thompson family home with Curtis Hicks and Eunice Hill offici-

ating.

An all-night wake service was held Oct. 3 at the home.

He died on Oct. 1 and was born on the same date in 1969 to Timmy and Joyce Jones Thompson in Henryetta.

He married Melinda Taryole December 21, 1991 at Yardeka Baptist Church. Thompson was a member of Ocevpofo Ceremonial Ground. He was given the name Mekko Yaholv. He was a stompdance song leader and a stickball player for the East.

He was a graduate of Henryetta High School and had been attending Northeastern State University, Tahlequah. Thompson was employed at Eufaula Boarding School as an educational advisor.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother, Bessie Fife.

Survivors include: his wife of the home; his parents of Yardeka; brother, Orlando Benally; sister, Tina Dee; and niece and nephew, Tamiko and Deion Dee, all of Farmington, N.M.

Pallbearers were: Roman Powell; Wayland Gray; Alvin Bucktrot; Bunko Bear; Roger Butler; Andy Butler; and Chubby Soweka.

Burial was in the Harjo Family Cemetery.

LENA WACOCHE

ERMA — Funeral services for Lena Davis Wacoche were held Aug. 29 at Tuskegee Baptist Church with Rev. Bunny Hill officiating.

Wake services were held at the church on Aug. 28.

She died Aug. 26 at her home in Eufaula. She was born Jan. 1, 1928 in Okemah to Allie and Nessie Miller Davis.

Wacoche was a nurse's aide in the Eufaula area for many years. She married James Melvin Wacoche March 21, 1951 in Van Buren, Ark.

She was preceded in death by: her parents; her husband; and two sisters.

She is survived by: three daughters, Jeanie Wacoche of Muskogee, Janet Cargil of Bristow, and Janice Doke of Porum; three sons, Melvin Wacoche of the home, Mayo Wacoche of Bristow, and Gerald Wacoche of Muskogee; a brother, Billy Davis of the home; and a sister, Josephine Nilime of Bristow.

Interment was in the family cemetery.

RICHARD WHITLOW

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Rev. Richard Whitlow were held Sept. 11 at Shurden Funeral Home Chapel with Rev. John Lowe officiating.

Wake services were held at the funeral home chapel also. Whitlow died Sept. 8 in Muskogee. He was born July 28, 1922 in Dustin to Edmond and Jenneta Bunney Whitlow.

Whitlow was a retired farmer. He had been the pastor of Thewarle Baptist Church since 1989. He was a World War II veteran of the Army.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; a son, Norman Whitlow; and a daughter, Linda Whitlow.

He is survived by: his wife, Rosana Harper Whitlow, of the home; four sons, Leroy and Troy of the home,



Thompson

Eastman Whitlow Jr. of Morris, and Rufus Whitlow of Okmulgee; two daughters, Ruben Hicks of Sapulpa and Sharon Lowe of Bryant; three sisters, Virginia Barnett, Lela Looney, and Lucy Whitlow, all of Dustin; and 11 grandchildren.

Military rites were conducted by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 539 at the Whitlow Family Cemetery.

TOM YARHOLAR

OKEMAH — Funeral services for Tom Yarholar were held Sept. 8 at Springfield United Methodist Church with Revs. Edwin Jimboy and Malcom Tiger officiating.

Wake services were held Sept. 5 and 6 at Robert Simons Funeral Home Colonial Chapel in Henryetta.

He died Sept. 4 at Creek Nation Community Hospital in Okemah. He was born Dec. 13, 1916 to Chapley Yarholar. Yarholar was a lifelong Okemah resident. He was a custodian and painter at Okemah High School. He served in the Army during World War II. He was a member of Springfield church. He enjoyed singing gospel songs, playing the harmonica, watching his sons play softball.

He was preceded in death by: his father; and his wife, Sallie.

Survivors include: five sons, Melvin Jo Hicks and Clint Yarholar of Oklahoma City, Clarence Yarholar of Norman, Thomas Yarholar of Okemah, and Vernon Yarholar of Bethany; two daughters, Stella J. Speaks of Locust Grove, and Ethel M. Humble of Okemah; 17 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; two nephews; and three nieces.

Pallbearers were: Ralph Crawley; Dylan Rogers; Mike Little; Billy Hart; Ricky Wise; and Ricky Rollings. Honorary pallbearers were: Andy Girty; Angel Lowe; Jerry Baker; and John Lowe.

Interment was in Yarholar-Scott Cemetery.

Gratitude

We would like to thank Muscogee Nation for monetary assistance with funeral expenses.

We extend our appreciation to relatives and friends that offered us support and attended the funeral during the loss of our loved one.

Please Bridges Family

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we thank all who showed so much consideration to us during the loss of our loved one.

Your thoughts, prayers, gifts of flower and food, and your presence was uplifting to our families.

We would like to thank the officiating ministers and Shurden Funeral Home for the beautiful service.

Emmanuel Hicks Family

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to those who sent flowers and cards during our loss.

We would like to extend special thanks to the following people who loved, supported, and-or took care of our loved one: health care providers; Mary Anne Kane; Mary Jo Schooley; Revs. Joe Lowe Jr. and Harry Long; individuals that prepared food; and Kelly Funeral Home.

Your kindness and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. We pray that God continues to bless you.

Polly Miller Homma Family

Hospital auxiliary helps families during holidays

OKEMAH — The Hettie S. Burgess Memorial Auxiliary assisted 127 children and eight elder community citizens through its Christmas tree program at Creek Nation Community Hospital.

Five food baskets were contributed to families also.

The Hettie S. Burgess Memorial Auxiliary, Inc. is a volunteer organization serving the hospital under the direction of Schuler tribal citizen Shirley Almerigi. Volunteers consist of Muscogee women and men primarily.

The auxiliary is sponsoring a chaplain's program at the hospital which began in January. The program affords the availability of a minister and chapel room to patients and families.

The auxiliary is currently executing a membership drive to recruit volunteers "to share in this wonderful experience," Almerigi said.

Among 1997 auxiliary activities it: sponsored a hospital bazaar; provided supplies to the health alert team during the Creek Festival and Rodeo; provided plants for the hospital grounds; and music audio tapes and sundry items to hospital patients.

A giftshop operated by the auxiliary offers primary financial support for these efforts. Almerigi encourages the donations of books and craft items.

For more information, call (918) 623-1424, ext. 425.

Cox

continued from page 1

During his tenure as principal chief, he served as chair of the Five Civilized Intertribal Council. He remained actively involved with tribal affairs and was a member of the tribal health board until his death.

Among other achievements, Cox: served as: president, Union 785, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; chair, Creek Indian Trading Post; member, Creek Advisory Council to Principal Chief Dode McIntosh; treasurer, Northeast District of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference; and various offices within Newtown United Methodist Church.

Council

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by acquiring and conveying land or supporting the conveyance of land, of equivalent value, into trust. In exchange, the Nation would refrain from initiating legal action to determine or quiet the tribe's title to the railroad lands and adjacent corridor lands for two terms of 25 years each; and

• approved unanimously, by voice vote, **Pamela Wilson** and **Doris Day**, citizens presented by the election board to count absentee ballots for Muskogee and Wagoner districts, respectively. They were not approved during the initial July 29 approval of absentee counters.

Sept. 27 regular session

The following veto messages were acted upon:

• overrode (19-6) NCA 97-84 — amending NCA 95-105 to specify terms for issuing debt instruments (notes, bonds, etc.) for Muscogee Nation travel plazas;

Voting no were **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Buck**, Tukvptvce; **Kelley**, Tulsa; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **George Tiger**, Creek; and **Warrington**, Creek;

Election

continued from page 1

Seat B

Bruce Smith — 177

Wynema Roberts — 166

Seat C

Bill Fife — 198

Clyde Johnson — 193

Tukvptvce District

Seat A

Dwayne Lowe — 210

James McGirt — 92

Tulsa District

Seat B

Kenneth Childers — 301

Stephen Bruner — 265

Seat C

Earl King — 352

Okema Randall — 186

Seat D

Robert Hufft — 211

Ron Cleghorn — 187

Seat E

Jesse Kelley — 309

Mary Sue Peak — 238

Wagoner District

Seat A

Richard Berryhill 117

Mickey Primeaux — 41

Seat B

Barbara Gillespie — 92

Delores Hamilton — 67

Dwayne Lowe, Tukvptvce, was not present to vote;

• overrode (23-2) NCA 97-89 — amending the spelling and pronunciation of Muscogee (Creek) Nation to Mvskoke Nation. Voting no were: **Johnson**, Okfuskee; and **Lewis**, Okmulgee;

Lowe, Tukvptvce, was not present to vote;

In other business the Council:

• returned to committee unanimously (24-0) NCA 97-88 — a bill providing for the establishment of a sales tax code;

Lowe, Tukvptvce, was not present to vote. Speaker **Gouge** conducted the meeting and did not vote;

• approved (18-5-2) Tribal Resolution 97-19 — accepting the terms of the State Motor Fuel Tax Code by granting a waiver of immunity from suit by the State of Oklahoma and liability in state and federal court. The waiver is exclusively for resolving disputes that may result from the contract between the tribe and the state. Voting no were: **Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **R. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; and **Nichols**, Okmulgee;

Abstaining were: **Chupco**, Muskogee; and **Little**, Muskogee;

• returned to committee (21-3-1) NCA 97-92 — a waiver for the elderly nutrition program releasing their obligation for office space rental at \$16.50 per square foot — \$41,712 — for FY 98. Voting no were: **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; and **Nichols**, Okmulgee;

Abstaining was **Ellis**, Okmulgee;

• approved (19-5-1) NCA 97-94 — allowing chartered tribal communities first priority for licensing retail tobacco stores within community boundaries. Voting no were: **Bruner**, Tulsa; **Johnson**, Okfuskee; **Lowe**, Tukvptvce; **Tiger**, Creek; and **Warrington**, Creek;

Abstaining was **Buck**, Tukvptvce;

• Approved (22-2) NCA 97-98 — appropriating \$4,200 from the interest on the permanent fund account for the installation of rural water and natural gas service. Voting no were: **Warrington**, Creek; and **Watson**, Okfuskee. **Little**, Muskogee, did not vote;

After a brief recess, Speaker **Gouge** relinquished the chair to Second Speaker **Wheeler** and excused himself from the session. **Hale**, Okmulgee, excused himself from the session also. **Pickering**, McIntosh, did not return from recess.

• approved (19-0) NCA 97-99 — authorizing the **Principal Chief Beaver** to contract John M. Arledge

and Associates of Edmond to conduct the FY 97 annual audit. **Bruner**, Tulsa; **R. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **Johnson**, Okfuskee, did not vote;

• approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 97-100 — naming the Muscogee (Creek) Nation as the recipient of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Block Grant Funds for Housing and designating the Creek Nation Housing Authority to serve as the tribally designated housing entity which will administer program funds and operate specified housing programs;

• NCA 97-101 — authorizing for appropriation and expenditure of the FY 98 CAB at 25 percent of FY 97 CAB funding amounts, for Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, was approved unanimously (22-0) with amendments;

Tiger, Creek, motioned to amend the act to allow FY 97 department of justice and judicial branch unexpended appropriations to be carried into FY 98 for expenditure availability. It was amended unanimously (22-0);

• approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 97-102 — amending NCA 97-95 to provide for carryover of unexpended funds for availability throughout FY 98;

• NCA 97-103 — appropriating monies to the election board to conduct the Oct. 25 primary election was approved unanimously (22-0) with amendments;

Tiger, Creek, motioned to amend the act to reduce the amount from \$21,477 to \$15,677 because program revenue funds were available to incur the difference in the amounts. It was amended unanimously (22-0);

• approved unanimously (22-0) National Council Resolution 97-15 — confirming the nomination of **Dorothy R. Pinezaddleby** to the election board. The principal chief nominated her to serve the remaining term of the late Kenneth Moore. Pinezaddleby is a tribal citizen residing in Okmulgee;

• approved (21-1) NCR 97-16 — confirming the principal chief's nomination of **Hugh Ed Johnson** to serve the remaining term of Yahola Townsend on the Creek Nation Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. Johnson, of Norman, is retired from the U.S. Department of HUD. Voting no was: **R. Cleghorn**, Tulsa;

• approved unanimously (22-0) NCR 97-17 — confirming the nomination of **Cletus Sue Wilson** to the election board. She was nominated by the principal chief. Wilson is a tribal citizen residing in Muskogee.

• TR 97-15 — establishing membership in the Intertribal Tax Commission was approved unanimously with amendments (22-0);

please see **COUNCIL**..., page 10

Book offers insightful and impassioned view of Chilocco

They Called It Prairie Light: The Story of Chilocco Indian School, K. Tsianina Lomawaima, University of Nebraska Press, 1993, 205 pages

When Muscogee citizen Curtis Carr entered Chilocco Indian School as a nine year-old boy in 1927, he probably never imagined that his daughter would later write an award-winning history of the school.

Carr's experiences figure prominently in *They Called It Prairie Light* by K. Tsianina Lomawaima, a professor of American Indian studies at the University of Arizona. Her book was the winner of the 1993 North American Indian Prose Award.

Mvskoke authors have made a good impression on the judges for this important literary prize. Since the annual competition began in 1991, two of the seven recipients have been Muscogee citizens. Vincent Mendoza won the award in 1995 for his autobiography *Son of Two Bloods* (featured in the May 1997 issue of *The Muscogee Nation News*).

Chilocco Indian School, located on Cherokee Outlet lands south of Arkansas City, Kan., opened for students in 1884. It was one of the first off-reservation schools established by the U.S. government, marking the beginning of a new era in the effort to break up tribal communities and assimilate Indian children to Anglo-American life. The allotment of tribal lands and Oklahoma statehood were just around the corner.

The book's title refers to the first building constructed on the campus, an imposing limestone edifice nicknamed "the light on the prairie."

More buildings followed and attendance grew during the first five decades of Chilocco's life. Annual enrollment reached 800 by the early 20s and varied from this level up to 1,200 through the 50s. Students were recruited from tribal communities throughout the continental U.S. and Alaska. Mvskokes and Yuchis began attending Chilocco after 1910 and for many years remained one of the largest tribal delegations at the school.

Until reforms were introduced in the 30s, students were subjected to an intense regimen of academic and vocational education as well as strenuous work detail, with discipline modeled after military traditions. Enrollment declined after World War II as federal policy shifted to supporting day schools and public schools closer to tribal families. Chilocco Indian School closed in 1980.

The author provides a brief overview of Chilocco's history, then focuses on the period between 1920 and 1940, the heyday of the off-reservation boarding school system.

Lomawaima conducted interviews with 53 Chilocco alumni and several former employees who were at the school during these years. She calls these survivors "living archives;" their recollections are the basis for her book. This oral history approach is one of the real strengths of Lomawaima's work.

Federal policy and administrative practices created an institutional climate intended to control every aspect of the lives of boarding school students. One of the most important features of school life was the segregation of students according to gender, with female students subjected to especially close supervision.

Lomawaima examines the educational and personal experiences of male and female students in two chapters organized by gender. Her analysis of Chilocco's

Council

continued from page 9

Bruner, Tulsa, motioned to amend the resolution to omit naming tribal Tax Commissioner Michael Factor and alternate, Linda Lowe, as its representatives, specifically. The alternate was amended to be a designee of the tax commissioner and approved (21-0-1);

Abstaining was **Nichols**, Okmulgee;

• **TR 95-17** — approving the addition of roads identified during phase I of the National Road Inventory Update Project to the current Bureau of Indian Affairs Reservation Road Inventory was approved unanimously (22-0) with amendments;

Lewis, Okmulgee, motioned to amend the inventory with the addition of Duck Creek, Okmulgee District, eight miles. It was amended unanimously by voice vote; and

• **NCA 97-57** — a bill appropriating funds to Vernon Charitable Foundation Inc., toward the repair of a facility to be used for a community center, was not addressed, therefore remaining tabled. The bill was tabled in the May regular session.

Oct. 25 quarterly session

Absent was **Tiger**, Creek.

In Council business:

• approved unanimously (24-0) **NCA 97-104** — amending 95-127 appropriating the principal chief to expend \$30,000 from the interest on the permanent fund account on social services for citizens residing outside of tribal boundaries. It provides for the carryover of unexpended funds into FY 98;

• approved unanimously (24-0) **NCA 97-107** — authorizing the principal chief to execute an agreement with the City of Muskogee to settle pending legal actions and acquisition of lands to be placed in trust for the Nation;

• approved unanimously (24-0) **NCA 97-108** — approving the Creek Nation Housing Authority five-year and one-year Indian Housing Plan as is required by the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996;

• approved unanimously (24-0) **NCA 97-109** —

"domestic training for girls" is particularly insightful and impassioned.

But the military life is only part of the story of Chilocco Indian School. Lomawaima shows how students also contributed to the creation of a unique "school culture" that allowed many of them to survive — and even thrive — in the harsh environment. How individual students responded to the boarding school experience depended on a wide range of factors including tribal affiliation, family background, and individual personality as well as their age when entering Chilocco and the historical period during which they attended.

When Lomawaima writes that "Chilocco was an Indian school," she means not only that it was a school intended for Indians, but also that Indian students found ways to make it their own. A concluding chapter on the "private moments" controlled by Chilocco students sheds light on how this took place.

repealing **NCA 90-106**, **NCA 94-86**, and **NCA 96-13** and implementing a special academic-extra-curricular program. The three acts to be repealed authorized and appropriated funds and established guidelines for the special academic and extra-curricular programs. Because of budget restraints the two programs will be combined. It appropriated \$15,000 from the bingo revenue account to fund the program;

• **NCA 97-111** — appropriating funds for the burial expenses of tribal citizen Ples Calvin Bridges Jr., of which the tribal children and family services administration had served as guardian at the time of his



photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Second Speaker Bill Fife, right, receives the oath of office from Muscogee Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Wiley, center, after Justice Amos McNac, left, administers the Mvskoke language version of the oath.

death, was approved unanimously (24-0) with amendments;

• failed to approve (5-18-1) **NCR 97-13** — confirming the principal chief's renomination of **Mike McCoy** to the gaming operations authority board. Voting no were: **Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Bruner**, Tulsa; **Chupco**, Muskogee; **R. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Hale**, Okmulgee; **Johnson**, Okfuskee; **Kelley**, Tulsa; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Little**, Muskogee; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **T. McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Smith**, Okfuskee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; and **Wheeler**, Creek;

please see **COUNCIL**..., page 11

Annual alumni gatherings that continue today are testimony to the enduring bonds of intertribal friendship and solidarity that many students formed decades ago.

Mvskoke and Yuchi students made up 12 percent of the student body in 1925 and 18 percent in 1939; Mvskoke and Yuchi narrators appear throughout the book.

Lomawaima includes detailed information about her interview methodology, making this a useful resource for anyone interested in conducting their own oral history project. A number of visual archival photographs add a visual dimension to this fine book.

They Called It Prairie Light is available from the University of Nebraska Press at: 901 N. 17th St, Lincoln, NE 68588-0520; or through a toll-free order line at 1 (800) 755-1105.

— James Treat, University of New Mexico

Council Committees

OKMULGEE — Committee assignments have been made for the 1998-99 National Council. They are:

- **Business and Governmental** — Roger Barnett; Helen Chupco; A.D. Ellis; Bill Fife; Robert Hufft; Earl King; and George Tiger;
- **Human Development** — Richard Berryhill; Wilbur Gouge; Dave Lewis; Dwayne Lowe; Tommy Pickering and Thomas Yahola;
- **Community Services and Cultural** — Barbara Gillespie; Jim B. Harjo; Jesse Kelley; Harley Little; Famous Marshall; and David Nichols; and
- **Tribal Affairs** — Roy Bear; Larry Bible; Johnson Buck; Abe McIntosh; Thomas McIntosh and Bruce Smith.

Council

continued from page 10

Abstaining was **I. Cleghorn**, Tulsa;

- failed to approve (6-18) NCR 97-14 — the principal chief's nomination of **Stephen H. Foster** to serve on the gaming operations authority board. Voting no were: **Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Bruner**, Tulsa; **Chupco**, Muskogee; **R. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Hale**, Okmulgee; **Johnson**, Okfuskee; **Kelley**, Tulsa; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Little**, Muskogee; **Lowe**, Tukvptce; **T. McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Pickering**, McIntosh; **Smith**, Okfuskee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; and **Yahola**, Tukvptce; and

- failed to approve (2-22) NCA 97-57 — a bill appropriating \$1,000 to Vernon Charitable Foundation Inc. Community Center Project. Voting no were: **Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Bruner**, Tulsa; **Buck**, Tukvptce; **Chupco**, Muskogee; **I. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **R. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Hale**, Okmulgee; **Johnson**, Okfuskee; **Kelley**, Tulsa; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Little**, Muskogee; **Lowe**, Tukvptce; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Smith**, Okfuskee; **Warrington**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; **Wheeler**, Creek; and **Yahola**, Tukvptce.

Nov. 22 regular session

Absent were: **Bible**, Tulsa; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes, and **Tiger**, Creek.

In Council business:

- tabled (14-8) NCA 97-117 — amending NCA 96-75 which appropriates funds to Eufaula Boarding School Board of Education. Voting no were: **Buck**, Tukvptce; **Hale**, Okmulgee; **Little**, Muskogee; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **T. McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Warrington**, Creek; **Watson**, Okfuskee; and **Wheeler**, Creek;

- approved (16-6) NCA 97-121 — approving the FY 98 budget for the tribal motor vehicle registration department. Voting no were: **I. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **R. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Hale**, Okmulgee; **Johnson**, Okfuskee; **Little**, Muskogee; and **Watson**, Okfuskee;
- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 97-122 —

Gratitude

continued from page 8

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to those who sent flowers and cards during our loss.

We would like to extend special thanks to the following people who loved, supported, and/or took care of our loved one: health care providers; Mary Anne Kane; Mary Jo Schooley; Revs. Joe Lowe Jr. and Harry Long; individuals that prepared food; and Kelly Funeral Home.

Your kindness and thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated. We pray that God continues to bless you.

Polly Miller Homma Family

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to those that called, visited, sent cards, flowers, and food after the passing of our loved one.

We express our appreciation to the following: Dewar Indian Community volunteers; Checotah and Eufaula ambulance services; Belvin Baptist Church; Rev. Houston Tiger and Allison Phillips; the ladies that prepared food for services; and the church members that supported us.

God will bless each of you.

Sam Kelley Family

We would like to thank family and friends that offered us spiritual and physical support during the loss of our loved one.

We are blessed to have received such expressions of concern that were done out of compassion. Those that demonstrated it through their prayers, words of consolation, or by sending cards and flowers are appreciated; you reaffirmed the fact that our loved one was well thought of by many.

Whether you ran errands, cleaned, cooked, washed dishes, stayed up with us all night, or offered an embrace when we thought our hearts could not bear the pain of grief — you eased our burden and have endeared yourself to our family.

We would like to acknowledge the following: Eunice Hill; Curtis Hicks; Farron Culley; Sandra Peters; ceremonial grounds; Muskogee Nation, tribal employees, and tribal road construction; Thlopthlocco Tribal Town and bingo hall; Ryal School; Fountainview Manor; Lake Drive Nursing Home; Pancho Villas Restaurant; Henryetta Public Schools; Eufaula

appropriating \$65,000 from the interest on the permanent fund account for a military memorial honoring Muskogee Nation veterans;

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 97-127 — amending NCA 97-101 to increase the appropriation of direct client services from the FY 98 CAB to 50 percent of FY 97 CAB amounts; and
- approved (15-6-1) NCR 97-18 — confirming

Boarding School; First Baptist Church of Henryetta, and Robert Simons Funeral Home.

Again, mvto.

Kendall Thompson Family

We would like to express our appreciation to all churches, organizations, and individuals that sent flowers, cards, prepared food for the family, or remembered us in their prayers during the loss of our loved one.

We would like to thank the members of Arbeka Baptist Church for contributing their time and effort in assisting our family. We would also like to thank the following: Revs. John Lowe, Johnson Roberts, Mitchell Taylor, Allison Phillips; and the many others who offered words of encouragement and supported us through their presence.

Rev. Richard Whitlow Family

We wish to say thank you for your emotional and spiritual support in our time of need. It's an honor to have people take time out of their personal lives to demonstrate their respect, concern, and walk with us during our time of grief.

We extend our gratitude to the community, churches, health system, friends and relatives for the donations, food, and flowers.

We have truly experienced the meaning of family through your presence during the four days following our dad's passing. We know that, even after our loss, you will continue to offer support to our family during times of need. We couldn't have made it without your personal help.

Thank you and God bless.

Tom Yarholar Family

Religion brief

Mvskoke Baptists conduct mission work

CLUNY, Alberta — Muskogee citizens representing several area Baptist churches conducted mission work on the Siksika Nation Reserve in July and August.

The mission team of 22 held a youth revival and vacation bible school was held at Little Washington Chapel. Around 80 children attended the vacation bible school. An offering of \$250 was donated to the mission team.

Those churches represented were: Little Quarsarty Baptist; Belvin Baptist; Little Cussetah Baptist, First Indian Baptist of Muskogee, and Emmaus Baptist of McCloud.

the principal chief's nomination of **Charles R. Coleman** to serve the unexpired term of Hugh Ed Johnson on the tribal health systems board. Coleman is a tribal citizen residing in of Weleetka. Voting no were: **R. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Hale**, Okmulgee; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Watson**, Okfuskee; and **Wheeler**, Creek;

Abstaining was **I. Cleghorn**, Tulsa.

Letters

continued from page 2.

"Indian fighter" not to be glorified

Editor:

In the June 1997 issue of *George*, Andrew Jackson was listed in an article by Andrew Schlesinger Jr. as one of the most fascinating "top 10 political men of all time." The first item listed to glorify him was "Indian fighter."

The cruelty and hardships visited upon Indians as a result of his actions as an "Indian fighter" and his policies as president cannot be covered in a single letter. The whites rejoiced at his removal policies. As soon as Indians were moved out, whites immediately moved into Indian homes or the Indian homes were burned. Is that much different from what has been occurring in Bosnia? I do not wish to take from Jackson the credit for the good things that he did, but I do want to show the devastating effect that his actions and policies had on the lives of Indians. Too, I want to dispel any notion that being an

"Indian fighter" is noble, heroic or something in which to be proud.

Betty Tiger Miller, Portland, Ore.

Woman searches for father

Editor:

I am trying to locate my father, John Edward Rose, and descendants of my great-grandparents, Lewis Edward Rose and Dora Godbey Rose.

They had many children: John G.; Prineress E.; David W.; William M.; Phillip R.; George R.; Mary M.; Virgil L.; Walter M.; Barbie B.; Alex H.; Arthur; Arley; William C.; Macel P.; William J. B.; Thomas C.; and David.

Relatives may call me collect at: (541) 741-1772; or write, 535 S. 68th Place, Springfield, OR 97478.

Lois Jean Rose Price, Springfield, Ore.

Woman wants judgement enforced

Editor:

If we allow the state of disharmony to continue in Muscogee Nation, we could be faced with the same situation as the

Cherokee Nation.

Tulsa Creek Indian Community Chair Pat Kelly disagreed with our judicial court's judgement. It is natural for her to disagree as she is one of the defendants in violation of our tribal laws.

Kelly called a TCIC special session on Aug. 7 and asked the community to vote on whether defendants should be relieved of the debt that was imposed on them in tribal court. It is unbelievable that a court judgement can be relieved by means of a vote of around 22 people who are supposedly representative of the 500 members the board claims to have.

Ramifications resulting from this action would be cause for having doubts of going to the expense of a trial, only to have the judgement overturned by a vote.

Okema Randall, Broken Arrow

Editor's note: On Dec. 13, 1996 tribal trial court entered an order and judgement in favor of: plaintiff, Rick Wilde; intervenor, Muscogee Nation; and Tulsa Creek Indian Community against individual board members in the total amount

of \$11,000. Each member had received \$2,200 as a stipend for board membership which was in violation of the TCIC Constitution and Bylaws.

As judgement holder, it is the responsibility of the TCIC entity [the whole community via its governing body] to collect the judgement, said tribal special district judge Stephen Foster.

Citizen thanks Council for support

Editor:

I would like to thank the Muscogee National Council for financial assistance to participate in the 16 and under ASA National Slowpitch Softball Tournament in Orlando, Fla.

The tournament was held in August; 43 teams from throughout the U.S. participated. I was selected by the Muskogee Patriots as pitcher. The team finished fourth with a 6-2 record. I really enjoyed the tournament and trip. I, along with my family, appreciate the support Muscogee Nation offers to its youth.

Jamie Teehee, Tahlequah

Society

continued from page 6

Achievement

Citizen appointed Shamrock mayor

SHAMROCK — Muscogee citizen Kim Howard has been appointed mayor of one of Oklahoma's official ghost towns — the rural Creek County town of Shamrock.

As the head of its new governing body, Howard believes the future is promising for this town of around 100. "We want to get the town stabilized, see where we are financially and then start making plans for the future. We are never going to be a big city, but we have been and can still be a solid, safe place where people want to raise their families and live out their lives."

Howard is the son of Anita Drywater of Sapulpa and Frank Starkey of Tulsa.

His grandparents are Rev. Jake and Marina Wildcat of Sapulpa.

Girl helps team place in national tourney

ORLANDO — Tribal citizen Jamie Teehee assisted her team, the Muskogee Patriots, to a fourth place finish in the ASA National Tournament.

Teehee, a Tahlequah High School sophomore, played pitcher and second base.

The team played teams from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Rhode Island. Many of their contests were close, with some of them undecided until the final pitch. Included in their victories were the Brats of Georgia, recent USSSA World Champions.

She is the daughter of Brenda and Jim Teehee of Tahlequah.

Robert Lynch (aka Childress) held a family reunion recently.

Four of six of his children were present: Bonnie Fisher of Balstrup; Betty Thursby of Hahira, Ga.; Walter Childress of Houston, Texas; and Bobbie Stoeber of Victoria, Texas.

Also attending were: a niece; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. Forty people were in attendance.

Locapokv Tribal Town

TULSA — A reunion of the families of Locapokv Tribal Town was held in November at Tulsa Creek Indian Community Center.

The town is commonly spelled Lochapoka, Locherpoker, and Locherpoka also. It is sometimes referred to as "Turtle Town."

Its members are descendants of the people that settled both sides of the Arkansas River — around Sand Springs to Bixby, centered in the neighborhood of downtown Tulsa in the late 1830s. The location of its old ceremonial ground is the current site of the Council Oak Tree. The original town is now Loachapoka, Ala.

Based on an 1895 tribal roll, descendants of the following Muscogee families may be members of Locapokv Town: Haikey; Sunday; Tiger; Hodge; Butler; Chisholm; Gooden; Van Est; Snake; Hosey; Alexander; Johnson; Fife; Leaper; Hooka; Haney; Nail; McIntosh; Childers; Loler; Starr; Tulmarsey; Fixico; Marshall; Bruner; Scraper; Partridge; Perryman; Burgess; Grayson; Hardy; Taylor; Fish; and Damplin.

Descendants that would like to be placed on a mailing list may write: Locapokv Town Reunion, c/o Robert W. Trepp, P.O. Box 9853, Tulsa, OK 74157-0853.

Community briefs

Checotah

CHECOTAH — Checotah Indian Community held its election of officers in September.

Elected were: chair: Charles Skaggs; vice-chair, Mildred Burkhalter; secretary, Belinda Colburn; treasurer, Carolyn Henson, parliamentarian, Elizabeth Jacobs; and reporter, Max Bear.

In other news — 16 community elders went on a three-day trip to Branson, Mo.

Hanna

HANNA — Hanna Indian Community is holding bingo games and dinners for elders each month.

Bingo is held on the first Saturday of each month. Dinners for elders are held on the third Sunday of each month.

In other community news — tribal citizen George Burns was married to Kim Lette Burns on Nov. 29 at the community center. Around 61 people were in attendance.

Kellyville

KELLYVILLE — Kellyville Indian Community has installed new officers for 1998.

Elected during it Dec. 1 election were: Shirley Brown, chair; Kenny Marshall, vice chair; Frances Watashe, treasurer; Melissa Johnson, secretary; and John Cheek, sergeant-at-arms.

In other community news — a Christmas dinner was held Dec. 20. The community extends its appreciation to all that attended and brought donations for the dinner. In addition to partaking of the holiday dinner, members were visited by Santa Claus.

Tulsa

TULSA — Tulsa Creek Indian Community is holding a wild onion dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., March 7.

The dinner will cost \$6 for adults and \$3 for children.

It will be held at the community center located at 8611 S. Union.

For more information, call (918) 298-2464.

Reunion briefs

Lynch

BALSTROP, Texas — The family of the late Wesley



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February 1998, 12 pages

Tribes to counter issues with initiatives

Tribes to be heard at sovereign immunity hearings in March

WASHINGTON — The first Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing dealing with tribal sovereign immunity will begin March 11.

Fiscal Year 1998 Interior Appropriations Bill., authored by Sen. Slade Gorton, R-Wash., originally included provisions that would have required the waiver of sovereign immunity and means testing for tribes receiving tribal priority allocation funds.

Because of strong tribal government opposition to the riders, Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., debated successfully for the removal of the provisions in Senate last

September. Gorton, chair of the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, agreed to drop the provisions in exchange for SCIA hearings on sov-

ereign immunity.

SCIA Chair Campbell and Vice Chair Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, contend that the sovereign immunity waiver violates promises made to Indian tribes in treaties with the U.S.

Inouye has urged tribal governments to take initiative in setting terms for upcoming issues. Inouye's staff is assisting tribes in developing legislative initiatives to counter issues such as attempts to limit sovereign rights, taxation, tax restrictions on land into trust, means testing, and Gorton's recent legislation giving states express authority to sue tribes.

Gorton's legislation, strongly supported by independent marketers, revisits provisions for states to sue tribes and-or tribal members in federal court for collection of sales, excise, and use taxes. It deals with contracts, torts, civil rights, and land use and would expose tribal land and assets to loss through federal courts.

The National Council of American Indians

believes major conflicts faced by tribes at the Congressional level in 1997 "boils down to a debate over the 'government' functions of tribes." The NCAI contends that misconceptions about Indian tribes among the general public and Congress lend to belief that Indian tribes: existed historically, but have little contemporary relevance; and that tribe's are equivalent to ethnic or social grouping.

The NCAI encourages tribal leaders to actively educate the public and government leaders that tribes are governments with the right to make its own laws and be governed by them.

In late February Muscogee Nation Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver and many other tribal leaders will convene in Washington at the NCAI Executive Council Winter Session to agree upon proactive agenda for legislative action.

Other dates and locations for oversight hearings on sovereign immunity have not been announced yet.

Muscogee Nation District court judge files order against tobacco companies

Tulsa World Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A Muscogee (Creek) Nation judge in Oklahoma opened the door [Feb. 12] for tribes taking the nation's major tobacco companies to tribal court to recover millions of dollars spent on health-care costs related to smoking.

Issued by Patrick E. Moore in the tribe's Okmulgee District, the order came on a case patterned after those filed against the tobacco industry by state attorneys general across the nation.

Mark Hutton of Wichita, Kan., the lead attorney in the case said the judge's order will lead to numerous other cases filed in tribal courts in Oklahoma and other states.

"There is not a precedent from a

tribal court on a tribe suing a major manufacturer of a defective product," Hutton said.

"This is the precedent that will be used in these tribal cases."

He said about 20 other tribes have asked his firm to file a lawsuit in their courts if he is successful in the Creek case.

"This opens the courthouse for a lot of other tribes to file suits," he said.

According to a copy of Moore's order, the tobacco companies argued that the tribal court lacked jurisdiction in the case.

Not only were they not located within the territorial jurisdiction of the court, but they also pointed out that

please see **ORDER...**, page 10

Commissioner reaffirms tribes' legal rights to tax, register members' vehicles

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Tax Commission Department of Motor Vehicle Registration has generated \$555,000 and issued 6,200 license plates since opening on Feb. 17 of last year.

Muscogee Nation license plates are visible on roads throughout the Muscogee Nation and across the United States currently.

The tribal department of motor vehicle registration receives daily inquiries on requirements for registration — as well as the legal status of tribal tags — predominantly from legal authorities outside of the state, said Tax Commission Mike Factor.

Because some non-Indians have accessed the media actively and

expressed uninformed opinions on tribal license plates — particularly those of the Muscogee Nation — Factor would like to educate tribal citizens on the legal status of Muscogee Nation license plates. Factor believes informed citizens may defend their choice to purchase tribal tags, as well as advocate for the Nation's right to provide tribal license plates to its citizens as an attribute of sovereignty.

Tribal authority to tax

The right of tribal governments to tax has been acknowledged by various U.S. Supreme Court Decisions in recent years, however the State of Oklahoma continues its

please see **TAX...**, page 10

Letters to the editor

Apekv Ceremonial Ground thanks supporters Editor:

We would like to thank the following grounds, organizations, and individuals for offering their support by making donations to and attending our bingo: Hickory Ground; Peach Ground; Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground; Nuyaka Ceremonial Ground; Tulsa Creek Indian Community; Wanda Froman; and Esther Kelley.

Again, *mvto* for helping make our bingo a success.

Apeka Ceremonial Ground members, Apekv town

Speaker thanks constituents, Council for votes Editor:

I would like to thank Tulsa District voters for electing me as National Council representative to seat B.

I am grateful to the Council members that voted to elect me as speaker for 10th session also. *Mvto*.

Kenneth Childers, Glenpool

Woman disappointed with citizens response Editor:

What has happened to the pride of the Mvskoke people? I thought when we learned of the Drumright principal's definitions of us as — "Injuns," "savages," "freeloaders," "dirty," "nasty," "lazy," "bingo," and "drunken Injuns" — there would be a great protest against him. Except for the Muscogee National Council resolution registering their protest, and three or four others, the Creeks appeared to have swallowed the insults of the principal. He was rehired by the Drumright School Board for another year.

Where were all of the "thinbloods" who reap the benefits of having a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood Cards, but who have not suffered from the degrading attitudes and verbal remarks of non-Indians? Have we Creeks become so far removed from our ancestors that we submit to any kind of treatment without a murmur? Do our ancestors think — for all their sufferings and privations to survive — that we, their descendents, have lost the proud, indomitable spirit that was theirs? Have their sacrifices become meaningless? I hope not. I hope that we Creeks have not become so submissive and passive in accepting what is prejudicial behavior, but remember we are unique and proclaim this fact to the non-Indian.

Jorene Coker, Preston

Superintendent thanks Nation for donation Editor:

I appreciate the support Muscogee Nation offered to our annual Christmas fund-raiser.

All proceeds generated from the fund-raiser are used to purchase candy for students that attend our Christmas program as well as elders that are not able to attend. The program was well attended and enjoyed by all. Thank you for your donation; the Nation helped make our program a success.

Louis Hicks, Ryal

Editor's note: Hicks is the superintendent of Ryal School and a tribal citizen.

In the March issue:

Muscogee veteran Leo Bland, a recent recipient of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, will be featured in the March issue of *The Muscogee Nation News*.

Descendents of Mvskoke letter writers sought Editor:

I have been working with Margaret Mauldin, a tribal citizen, to edit and translate a number of letters written to a missionary named Ann Eliza Worcester Robertson in the Mvskoke language.

The letters were written between 1878 and 1905 by people living in the Muscogee and Seminole nations. The department of English, College of William and Mary, is interested in publishing these letters, but is trying first to contact the families of the authors to gain their permission. The names of the authors are as follows: M.L. Asbury; John E. Carr; George Cornelius; Tupper Dunn; Efa Emarthlee; Hon. Hotalk Emarthlee; David Foster; Jimsey Harjo; Rev. W. W. Jimboy; Silas Johnson; John Jumper; Kenekehe; Jimmy Lanne; Thomas Little; Halpata Mekko; W. A. Palmer; J.R. Post oak; Rev. Wesley Smith; Waksoche 'Waxie' Tanyan; Rev. Alex Thompson; Johnson Tiger; Thomas Tiger; Thomas West; and Thomas Wise.

I would appreciate relatives of these individuals to contact me so that I can send a translation of the letter[s] in question. I may be contacted by writing: Jack Martin, College of William and Mary, Department of English, P.O. Box 8795, Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795.

Thank you.

Jack Martin, Williamsburg, Va.

Family thanks individuals for assistance Editor:

We would like to thank everyone that attended the benefit bingo and offered donations for Rowena Sands.

We would like to extend our gratitude to: Mr. and Mrs. Famous Marshall, for helping us access Okemah Indian Community Center; Muscogee National Council, for their contributions; Johnnie Sue Belcher, Hettie Bear, and Tina Bear, for their assistance; and volunteers who assisted with the bingo.

The help and contributions are appreciated very much.
Rowena Sands Family, Castle

Chilocco alum makes alumni aware of marker Editor:

I read the story about Chilocco Indian School and enjoyed it very much. I graduated from Chilocco in 1936 and still remember a lot of friends I made while there. Chilocco holds many fond memories for me.

I was a member of Company "C," 180th Infantry, 45th Division which was located at Chilocco. It was outstanding in World War II. Two Medal of Honor winners came out of company C — Jack Montgomery and the late Charles George.

At the 45th Infantry Division Museum, Oklahoma City, there is a stone monument listing the names of brave Chilocco men who died in WW II. At the head of the list is the name of Henry Nolatubby, the first American Indian killed in WW II.

I would like to make other Chilocco alumni aware of this monument with the names of the brave men who died during performance of their duty.

Leonard Scott, Oklahoma City

Editor's note: Scott is referring to the book review, *They Called It Prairie Light: The Story of Chilocco Indian School*, which appeared in the January issue of *The Muscogee Nation News*.

The monument is located at the 45th Infantry Division Museum, 2145 N.E. 36th St. in Oklahoma City.

Council member acknowledges individuals Editor:

Eighty-two tribal citizens residing outside of tribal boundaries had the opportunity to update their citizenship cards in Wewoka recently.

Seminole Nation officials graciously accommodated us through the use of their facilities.

I would like to thank the following for making this opportunity possible: Joyce Fixico, citizenship office staff manager; Katherine Tecumseh, staff member; Jane McKane, Seminole Nation Enrollment Office; Jerry Haney, Seminole Nation principal chief; James Factor, second chief; and Jerry Deere and Lou Coley, Muscogee tribal citizens, for their assistance with publicity.

Thomas Yahola, Wetumka

Editor's note: Thomas Yahola is National Council representative to Tukvptce District Seat B.

Visit the Muscogee (Creek)
Nation web page via the World
Wide Web at:

www.ocevnet.org

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News**, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Stephanie Berryhill, senior staff writer
Summer Barnes, secretary

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following are the actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the: Dec. 20 regular session; Dec. 29 special session; Jan. 31 quarterly session.

Dec. 20 regular session

Absent: **Steve Bruner**, Tulsa; **Johnson Buck**, Tukvptce; **Irene Cleghorn**, Tulsa; and **George Tiger**, Creek.

Speaker **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In Council business:

- approving (20-1) Tribal Resolution 97-22, recognizing individuals and families who have made contributions and donations to the Muscogee Nation. The Council acknowledged the family of the late Cora Buck Leitka for contributions of Council meeting minutes dated in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Voting yes were: (representatives listed alphabetically, followed by district): **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Helen Chupco**, Muskogee; **Ron Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **A.D. Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Anderson Hale**, Okmulgee; **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa; **Dave Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Harley Little**, Muskogee; **Dewayne Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Abe McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Tommy Pickering**, McIntosh; **Bruce Smith**, Okfuskee; **Phyllis Warrington**, Creek; **Nancy Watson**, Okfuskee; **Wheeler**, Creek; and **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce;

Voting no was **Clyde Johnson**, Okfuskee.

- approved (18-3) National Council Act 97-128, authorizing and appropriating \$5,000 to the Bedouin Shrine Temple, Muskogee, to contribute to transportation costs for children to its hospitals;

Voting no were: **Hale**, Okmulgee; **Johnson**, Okfuskee; and **Wheeler**, Creek; and

- approved unanimously (21-0) National Council Resolution 97-22, recognizing the distinguished service of Tulsa District Representative **Irene Cleghorn**.

Dec. 29 special session

Absent: **Bible**, Tulsa; **Bruner**, Tulsa; **Chupco**, Muskogee; **I. Cleghorn**, Tulsa; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Hale**, Okmulgee; and **Lowe**, Tukvptce

In Council business it passed NCA 97-130, a bill approving the Fiscal Year 1998 Comprehensive Annual Budget and providing for appropriations.

Jan. 31 quarterly session

Absent: **Bible**, Tulsa

The following veto message was acted upon:

- overrode (19-6) NCA 97-94, allowing chartered tribal communities first priority for licensing retail tobacco stores within community boundaries. Voting yes were: **Roger Barnett**, Creek; **Roy Bear**, Creek; **Berryhill**, Rogers-Mayes-Wagoner; **Buck**, Tukvptce; **Kenneth Childers**, Tulsa; **Chupco**, Muskogee; **Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Bill Fife**, Okfuskee; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Jim B. Harjo**, Okmulgee; **Kelley**, Tulsa; **Earl King**, Tulsa; **Little**, Muskogee; **Famous Marshall**, Okfuskee; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **T. McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Pickering**, McIntosh; and **Smith**, Okfuskee;

Voting no were: **Gouge**, McIntosh; **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Tiger**,

Creek; and **Yahola**, Tukvptce;

Speaker **Childers**, Tulsa, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In Council business:

- approved (23-1) NCA 98-02, a bill amending NCA 95-105 — which provides for the compensation of chartered communities for profits lost because of the operation of tribally owned cigarette and tobacco stores within community boundaries and clarifies the authority of the tax commissioner. The amendment clarifies that retail tobacco stores owned and operated by the Muscogee Nation must be licensed and managed by the tax commissioner with chartered communities being given first priority for stores within their boundaries. Voting no was **Lewis**, Okmulgee;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 98-03, appropriating \$13,310, from the interest on the permanent fund, to the Muscogee Nation 4-H program;

- returned to committee (13-11) NCA 98-04, a bill amending and adding new provisions to NCA 89-84 which establishes the authority of the gaming operations authority board. Voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Chupco**, Muskogee; **Fife**, Okfuskee; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Hufft**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa; **King**, Tulsa; **Little**, Muskogee; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; and **Smith**, Muskogee;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 98-08, amending NCA 95-114 — adopting a tribal flag and authorizing the application for copyright — to authorize the principal chief to apply for federal protection of the tribal seal and order the manufacturing and sale of tribal flags depicting the seal;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 98-10, authorizing and appropriating \$20,206, from the interest on the permanent fund, for Holdenville Indian Community Center. The funds will be used to cover financial burdens accrued through its usage agreement with Yeager Head Start Center;

- approved (17-7) TR 98-03, confirming Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver's nomination of Phyllis Warrington to serve on the gaming operations authority board. Warrington of Sapulpa, was 1996-97 representative to Creek District, Seat C. Voting no were: **Fife**, Okfuskee; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **King**, Tulsa; **Marshall**, Okfuskee; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **T. McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Nichols**, and Okmulgee;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCA 98-16, an ordinance approving an amendment to NCA 97-130 — appropriating an additional one-twelfth of the health systems administration budget at the FY 97 level. The FY 98 health administration budget has not been received for approval;

- approved unanimously (24-0) NCR 98-04, protesting discriminatory action by individuals of the Drumright Public Schools System;

- returned to committee (18-6) NCR 98-03, rules and procedures of the National Council. Voting no were: **Berryhill**, Rogers-Mayes-Wagoner and **Buck**, Tukvptce; **Gillespie**, Rogers-Mayes-Wagoner; **King**, Tulsa; **Little**, Muskogee; and **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; and

- approved unanimously (22-0) TR 98-05, adopting a post rehabilitation maintenance policy and policies and procedures for the home improvement program as requested by the Southern Plains Office of Native American Programs for the FY 97 Indian Community Development Block Grant Program. **Nichols**, Okmulgee; and **Yahola**, Tukvptce did not vote.



Muscogee Nation Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver attended the 54th annual conference of the National Congress of American Indians held in Santa Fe in November. Pictured, left to right, are: Principal Chief Beaver; Navajo Nation Chair Albert Hale; third person unidentified; Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby; and Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Joe Byrd.

photo by Kathryn Bell

School principal offends students with lesson on racial stereotypes

DRUMRIGHT — Despite verbally offending Indian and non-Indian students during a class lesson on racial stereotypes in January, Drumright School Board rehired High School Principal Larry Erwin recently.

While substituting for the class, Erwin allegedly used, among other words, "dirty," "lazy," "drunken Injun," and "free license tag" to teach Oklahoma history students a lesson on American Indian stereotypes.

Cherokee student Christie Towell vocalized her objections to Erwin's lesson, telling him that she resented furthering the perpetuation of stereotypes. Erwin responded by expressing his views on the sovereign and treaty rights of American Indians. He reportedly said

he resents Indians having free medical cards, license tags, education, and not having to pay taxes.

After an investigation of the incident, School Superintendent Roxie Terry concluded that Erwin had not conducted himself improperly.

The Muscogee National Council officially responded to the incident through its adoption of a protest resolution during its January regular session.

The resolution recommends a thorough investigation of alleged racial remarks and discriminatory statements be conducted by the school system. It states that the tribe will continue to monitor incidents of racial, ethnic, and cultural discrimination in Muscogee Nation boundaries also.

Programs

Citizenship office

OKMULGEE — Certificate Degree of Indian Blood Cards do not automatically enroll individuals as citizens of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation and are not necessary for tribal enrollment, according to the tribal citizenship board.

Additionally, they are not necessary in the State of Oklahoma. Tribal citizenship cards are accepted by all Indian Health Service facilities in the U.S.

The Muscogee Nation is solely responsible for approving its members. Individuals must be tribal members to receive tribal services such as: license tags; burial benefits; school clothing grants; energy assistance; childcare; and education grants.

Election office

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Election Board is requesting current information from registered tribal voters.

Registered voters that have moved are requested to contact the election board office at (918) 756-8700, exts. 294 or 349 in order to receive forms for updating information.

Home improvement program

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Home Improvement Program offers home rehabilitation for tribal citizens living in substandard homes within the jurisdictional boundaries of Muscogee Nation.

Emergency services

Emergency services are provided for safety hazards, structural damage, and areas that effect the basic needs of plumbing and electric. This includes: gas leaks; water leaks; handicap ramps; handicap bathrooms; house handicap-accessibility, defective water heaters; installation of ventless heaters; roof repairs, and other repairs associated with weatherization needs.

Rehabilitation services

Rehabilitation services are provided for standard living conditions. This includes: roof; interior; exterior; electrical; plumbing; and foundation repairs.

Applicant eligibility

Applicants must provide the following documents: proof of permanent residence; Muscogee Nation Citizenship Card; and proof of residence within Muscogee Nation boundaries.

Income eligibility

All members of the household receiving income must submit: current Federal Income Tax Return[s]; letter[s] from employer on company letterhead; income verification from the Social Security Administration, Veterans Affairs, retirement pension, Oklahoma State Employment, and-or department of human services.

Ownership

Ownership shall be defined by one of the following documents: full marketable title (warranty deed); quit claim deed; contract for deed; a life estate with the right of present possession, control, and beneficial use of the property; land assignments through the tribal realty office; or leasehold interest in the property to be repaired or rehabilitated (10 year lease agreement with a minimum of eight years remaining on lease.)

Disclosure

The HIP grant is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Applicants must

meet the criteria set by the funding agency to be eligible for services.

Applicants seeking housing assistance must provide all requested information in order to be considered.

For more information, contact the program at (918) 756-8504. Its office is located at the tribal capitol complex in the Creek Nation Housing Authority.

Road construction services

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Road Construction Services program is available to any American Indian living within the boundaries of the Muscogee Nation.

Priority is given to elders, the ill, and-or disabled. The program strives to ensure that there is sufficient access to priority applicants' homes in the event emergency medical assistance is needed — as well as personal use.

In order to qualify for assistance, applicants must: provide proof of enrollment with an American Indian tribe or a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood Card; live within Muscogee Nation tribal boundaries; and own and live on the property currently.

The selection process includes inspecting and photographing the property. Evaluations will be made with preference given to elders, the ill, and-or disabled, and existing road condition.

Applications are available from the road construction office at the tribal capitol complex. To request an application by mail, call (918) 756-8700, exts. 348 or 397.

Realty-trust services program

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Realty-Trust Services Program provides recommendations and services to individuals, incorporated tribal towns, and Muscogee Nation in the management of Indian trust and restricted land located within tribal boundaries.

Recommendations and services include, but are not limited to, the following: acquisition and disposal of property; surface leasing (business, residential, and agricultural); right-of-ways and permits; rights protection issues (trespass, boundary line disputes); preparation of inventories of restricted estates for probate; reviewing quiet title actions to insure no restricted land is involved; providing assistance to effect voluntary partitions; collecting surface damages on Bureau of Indian Affairs leases; ensuring lease compliance; verification of restricted land for various agencies and other inquiring parties; preparation of applications for trust conversions — tribal and individual; ownerships on restricted property; probates on trust property to be presented before the administrative law judge; maintenance of land records and title documents; plat legal descriptions; and performance of level I surveys on possible acquisitions and leases.

To be eligible for realty-trust program services, individuals must own or be a presumptive owner of an interest in restricted land or minerals.

For more information, contact the program at (918) 756-8700, exts. 265 or 420.

Motor vehicle registration

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Tax Commission Department of Motor Vehicle Registration makes tribal license tags available to Muscogee tribal citizens.

Requirements

To be eligible for a tribal license tag, an individual must meet the following requirements:

- be an enrolled Muscogee tribal member; and
- be a resident of the reservation that plans to principally garage the vehicle within tribal boundaries.

Application

To apply individuals must:

- be a tribal member and provide a title bearing the tribal member's name;
- submit a verification of owner's insurance security form or equivalent proof of liability coverage;
- submit current title and registration, current tag or certificate of origin (state tags must be current before a tribal tag will be issued);
- sign a Muscogee Nation vehicle registration form affidavit;
- if vehicle has been inoperable — sign an affidavit of inoperable vehicle and furnish a statement from an auto repair business establishing the cost of repairs, nature of repair, and statement that vehicle appears to have been inoperable at the time repairs were made;
- if registering a commercial vehicle — affix federal employer identification number to an affidavit of commercial vehicle; or affix to each side of vehicle — the name or identification number of the business in letters or numerals at least one inch in height and in contrasting color to the vehicle.

Farm tags

Individuals making application for a farm tag must submit documentation of:

- a current agricultural exemption permit, bearing the tribal member or spouse's name, issued by the Oklahoma Tax Commission;
- a farm number assigned by the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation County Committee; and
- schedule F (or comparable form) of the previous year's Federal Income Tax Return.

Upon meeting application requirements and payment, a tribal title, registration, and tag will be issued. The vehicle must be registered with the tribal department of motor vehicle registration annually.

Personalized tags are available for an additional \$25.

Selling a tribally-registered vehicle

To sell a tribally-registered vehicle to a non-tribal member, the Oklahoma Tax Commission instructs:

- to avoid assessment of back taxes on a tribally registered vehicle, the subsequent owner must obtain and show proof that the previous owner was a member of the tribe through one of the following — an original or certified copy of a tribal identification card; an original or certified copy of a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood Card stating tribal affiliation; or a certificate of tribal membership.

Prior to selling a tribally registered vehicle to a non-tribal member, the tribal tax commission advises tribal members contact the tribal citizenship office to obtain a certificate of tribal membership. The certificate should be submitted, along with the tribal title, when signed over to a non-tribal member. Submitting certificates will eliminate misuse of original cards by non-tribal members.

The department's hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excepting tribal holidays. It is located at the tribal capitol complex in the independent agencies (mound) building, office 301.

For more information, contact the department at (918) 756-8700, exts. 393 or 315.

Notices

Five Tribes to hold Indian tourism conference

NORMAN — The Five Civilized Tribes Tourism and Marketing Association is hosting its second Economic Development Conference on Indian Tourism Feb. 25 through 27.

The association is hosting this conference to continue its goal of informing and educating both tribal and non-tribal citizens, businesses, and governments on the benefits of the travel-tourism industry in areas of economic development and cultural preservation. It believes cooperative partnerships between the state and its American Indian tribes is a key factor in successfully promoting Oklahoma as a tourism destination.

The conference will feature tribal leaders, state dignitaries, tourism, and industry professionals. Among speakers will be Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission Executive Director Barbara Warner and state Lieutenant Gov. Mary Fallin.

Its 1997 conference was held at Arrowhead Resort, Crowder, with over 170 attending. Four states, forty exhibitors, and corporate sponsors were represented.

For more information, call 1 (800) 593-3356.

The conference will be held at Holiday Inn, located at 1000 N. Interstate Drive.

Sapulpa citizen hosting radio programs

OKMULGEE — Tribal citizen George Tiger is the host of a new tribal news-oriented radio program which premiered on KOKL-AM 1360 on Feb. 25.

Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver was the show's first guest. The interview-news format program will air at 9:30 a.m. every Wednesday.

Tiger is also host of "Oklahoma Indian Forum," a live, call-in radio show which airs from 10 to 11 a.m. every Saturday on KAKC-AM 1300. The call-in line for comments is (918) 460-1300. Free cellular phone calls may be made at #1300.

Tiger is a National Council representative to Creek District Seat A.

Tulsa Zoo Friends to host job fair

TULSA — Tulsa Zoo Friends is hosting a job fair for seasonal zoo work from 8 to 10 a.m., Feb. 28.

Applicants must be 16 years of age or older. Available positions include: cashiers; train engineers; food services; visitor services; and membership sales. Applicants may apply at the Helmerich Discovery Center located just inside the main zoo entrance. Applications will be accepted and managers will conduct interviews on Feb. 28. All positions will be filled no later than March 12.

For more information, call (918) 669-6601.

Workshop for native programs to be held

TAHLEQUAH — Northeastern State University Center for Tribal Studies is holding a proposal writing workshop for Native American programs to be held March 12 and 13.

The workshop will include how to: locate information on proposals; submit proposals; write proposals for public schools; write proposals for tribal and state-based grants; learn the mechanics of writing proposals; and construct grants.

The workshop costs \$175 per person.

The workshops will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.,

March 12 and 9 a.m. to noon, March 13 at the University Center, room 222.

For more information, call (918) 456-5511, ext. 4351.

Correctional center to host gospel singing

LEXINGTON — Joseph Harp Correctional Center Chapel is hosting an all-Indian gospel singing from noon to 8:30 p.m., March 14.

For more information, call George Williams at: (405) 527-5593, ext. 458; or write, P.O. Box 548, Lexington, OK 73051.

The center's Confined Inter-Tribal Group is hosting a gospel singing and wild onion dinner beginning at 6 p.m., March 17.

Individuals planning to attend must fax their: name; social security number; and date of birth by March 9 to Sgt. Diane Givens, activities officer at (405) 527-6379. The information may be mailed to CIG activities coordinator: Robert Mitchell #220126, P.O. Box 548, Lexington, OK 73051.

Crumbo art exhibit to be held at Council House

OKMULGEE — Woody Crumbo's Native American Dancers Series will be exhibited at the Creek Council House Museum through March 28.

The exhibit of 12 original silkscreens were donated by former Okmulgee resident Molly McCoy Roth-Schumpert of North Carolina.

Museum hours are from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

For more information, contact Debbie Martin, staff member, at (918) 756-2324.

"Good Person of L.A." to premiere in March

TULSA — The Tulsa Indian Actor's Workshop will present "Good Person of L.A." March 26, 27, and 29 at Liddy Doenges Studio in the Tulsa Performing Arts Center.

A reworking of Bertolt Brecht's play "Good Person of Szechuan," it is a modern-day fable about an Indian woman who receives a gift of money from the spirits and uses it to open an Indian store in a poor section of downtown Los Angeles. The workshop's production asks how an Indian woman running a business can maintain the tribal values of selfless giving and survive in a crooked, materialistic world.

Written and directed by Julie Little Thunder, the script features original poems and songs composed by internationally acclaimed poet and musician, Joy Harjo. Originally from Tulsa, Harjo is one of the best known contemporary Native American poets. Harjo, a Muscogee tribal citizen, will guest star in the production playing a street poet-musician.

Other cast members include: Pogie Dawn, in the lead role of Rosetta; Harold Blalock; Casey Camp; Tony Glass; Joby Redcorn; Jana Rhoads; Jess Rogers; Irene Tiger; Joann Whitecrow; and Nicole Wheeler.

The workshop received an award from the Tulsa Performing Arts Trust for its production of "Good Person of L.A." and is partially supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Oklahoma Arts Council, and the Oklahoma Community Theater Association.

The March 27 and 28 performances will begin at 8 p.m. The March 29 matinee will begin at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$6 for students, seniors, and groups of ten or more; regular admission is \$8. For more information, call Tulsa Indian Actor's Workshop at (918) 836-4617.

The workshop was founded in 1993 by Jana Rhoads

and Julie and Merlin Little Thunder. It has had a number of artistic successes, including its premiere production of "Indian Meadowlark," a play about Muscogee journalist and poet Alex Posey which featured Oklahoma film star Wes Studi.

Administration offers training

WASHINGTON — The Administration for Native Americans offers short-term technical training and assistance in efforts toward increased self-sufficiency.

Assistance is available under contracts for a range of constituent needs. Contractors are not authorized to write applications, but may assist ANA applicants to conceptualize strategies for social and economic development, native languages, environmental regulatory enhancement, environmental mitigation and translate them into an application for ANA funds. The assistance is provided at no cost to the recipient.

In geographic area I — Ala.; Fla.; Ky.; Mich.; N.J.; R.I.; Wis.; Ark.; Ga.; La.; Minn.; N.Y.; S.C.; W. Va.; Conn.; Ill.; Mass.; Miss.; Ohio; Tenn.; D.C.; Ind.; Md.; N.C.; Okla.; Va.; Del.; Kan.; Maine; N.H.; Pa.; and Vt. — contact Ted Knight, project director at: Association on American Indian Affairs, Tekakwitha Agency Road #7, Sisseton, SD 57262; (605) 698-3998 or 1-800-250-5887; or fax (605) 698-3316.

In geographic area II — Ariz.; N.M.; Utah; Colo.; Mo.; Wyo.; Iowa; Mont.; N.D.; S.D.; Neb.; and Texas — contact William Hayden, project director at: Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity, 3001 S. Berry Road, Suite 8, Norman, OK 73072; (405) 329-3737 or 1-800-375-3737; or fax (405) 329-8488.

In geographic area III — American Samoa; Calif.; Guam; Hawaii; Idaho; N. Mariana Islands; Nev.; Ore.; Palau; and Wash. — contact E. Robels, project director at: Development Associates, Inc., 1475 N. Broadway, Suite 200, Walnut Creek, CA 94596; (510) 935-9711 or 1-800-666-9711; and fax (510) 935-0413.

In geographic area IV — Alaska — contact Ruth E. Riley-Kaloo at: The Alaska Native Foundation, P.O. Box 100278, Anchorage, AK 99510; (907) 561-7573 or 1-800-770-7452; or fax (907) 561-1494.

In geographic area V — non-federally recognized tribes; urban Indians; off-reservation rural Indian communities; Native Americans served through non-federally recognized urban and consortia arrangements; and organizations serving Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Island Natives on the mainland — contact Bonnie Paquin, project director at: Native American Technologies, Inc., 3918 Prosperity Ave., Suite 205, Fairfax, VA 22031; (703) 641-0251 or 1-800-211-4976; or fax (703) 206-0473.

The ANA promotes the goal of social and economic self-sufficiency of American Indians, Alaska natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Native American Pacific Islanders, including Native Samoans. Self-sufficiency is a level of development at which a Native American community can control and internally generate resources to provide for the needs of its members and meet its own economic and social goals. Social and economic underdevelopment is the paramount obstacle to the self-sufficiency of Native American communities and families. The ANA is the only federal agency serving all Native Americans, including over 500 federally recognized tribes, 60 tribes that are state recognized or seeking federal recognition, Indian organizations, over 200 Alaska villages, Native Hawaiian communities, and populations throughout the Pacific basin.

It is a great privilege and honor for me to present the annual State of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation address. I am glad to report to you that the state of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is strong in spite of the difficult challenges we have faced at home and from outside forces that, of course, never relent in their reckless pursuit of eroding our tribal sovereignty.

Nineteen ninety-seven has been a year of changes, challenges, and rewards. I have seen our Nation make great strides for its people in spite of sometimes difficult barriers to its progress — from both within the tribal government and outside. In spite of federal budget cuts and its effect upon our Nation, we have stood strong and continued to serve our citizens with the resources we have available. And in spite of difficulties we have encountered among ourselves — we managed to work out mutual resolutions to problems or, where no resolution was possible, took steps to eliminate the problems for the protection of the Nation and for the greater good of its citizens.

In this third year of my administration I have been very pleased to see that many of the goals and visions I had when I became your principal chief have been realized and are now fully implemented. Of course these priorities did not come about overnight or without the team work and effort of the tribal administration and legislative branch working hard together. I commend my employees and National Council members for their part in striving to implement better ways of serving our citizens in the areas of jobs, better health care, preserving our culture and heritage, and in educational opportunities.

Last year, employees, I appealed to you to demonstrate a greater degree of cooperation and enthusiasm for your jobs in serving the needs of



State of the Nation

schedule reflects citizens who have concerns and frustrations with accessing our services. Many of these problems are simply misunderstandings about specific program guidelines. When I have brought these concerns to your attention — you have worked quickly to remedy them. Again, employees, thank you and continue your efforts for there is still much improvement to be made in this area.

On the national front, we did not fair well with the 105th session of Congress. In 1997, I, along with leaders of the National Council and our attorney general's staff, have made regular trips to Washington D.C. We have spoken with our congressional delegation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs concerning proposed budget cuts to Indian programs and out-and-out attacks upon our tribal sovereignty. In spite of these setbacks in maintaining operations of our federally funded programs and preserving our right to self-government and self-determination, we, at least for the present, defeated destructive budget riders such as the Istook Amendment, taxation, tax restrictions on land into trust, means testing, and other anti-Indian legislation.

We took a hard-line, proactive approach and, through the unified voice of many tribal leaders, we are prevailing. We cannot afford to step away from this intrusion into our sovereign rights and we must be vigilant in our stance with our

national lawmakers and let our voices be heard and presence felt if we are to continue to hold the line against anti-Indian attacks at the highest levels of government. These trips to the nation's capitol are as necessary for tribal leadership as taking care of business at home. Without a visible and vocal presence in the state and federal government — particularly during the last three years of unprecedented attacks upon the sovereignty of Indian nations — our rights would be terminated and there would be no business to take care of at home. This is a very real scenario that could become reality if these attacks go unheeded by tribal leaders. In fact, we have only to look at our own history to know that the battle for our people's survival as nations and governments and families has never ceased and, sadly enough, many of those battles we have lost. But the war is not over, for all tribal leaders have rallied to the cause of tribal sovereignty and we are prepared to fight any intrusion upon it.

Some of the major accomplishments of our major programs and services, to date, include:

- the opening of the tribal travel plaza last September — this project has been long anticipated and we are pleased to say that business is booming. The travel plaza has a payroll of approximately \$300,000 and employs 33 employees of which all are Muscogee. That's what we are accomplishing — putting Muscogee citizens to work. We are looking at expanding our travel plazas into other areas of the Muscogee Nation as well.

We are aggressively pursuing other economic development opportunities so we can put more money into our social services and educational programs. In fact, if we can put our Muscogee citizens to work, they won't need tribal social services. Economic development, along with education and employment, takes care of social services and health issues — our citizens will

We cannot afford to step away from this intrusion into our sovereign rights...if we are to continue to hold the line against anti-Indian attacks at the highest levels of government

our citizens and reminded you that service to our citizens is our mission. I am happy to say that, overall, you did not disappoint me. I commend you for your fine efforts and ask the same of you again this year. Everyday my appointment

...all tribal leaders have rallied to the cause of tribal sovereignty and we are prepared to fight any intrusion upon it.

have less dependency on the Nation for these needs because of job opportunities.

We anticipate even greater job opportunities through the Taxpayers Relief Act of 1997 — it will create more meaningful employment for

Student review

Depew citizen signs letter of intent

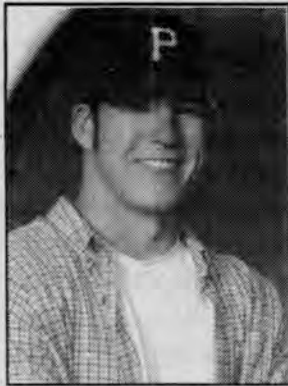
DEPEW — Depew High School senior Beau Smith signed a letter of intent to play baseball at Eastern Oklahoma State College, Wilburton, in January.

He was recruited by over 400 colleges in baseball. Smith has played baseball for the 13 years. He has lettered in baseball, football, and basketball since his freshman year. He had served as captain of all three sports also.

Among other sports and academic honors: all-conference baseball player, four years; all-star team pitcher, two years; state strikeout leader for 1997, for all classes in 6A and B schools; all-state honorable mention, three years; and class valedictorian, 4.1 overall grade point average.

He is the son of David and Linda Smith of Depew.

His grandparents are David and Rachel Smith of Okemah and the late Julia Moore, Sapulpa.



Smith

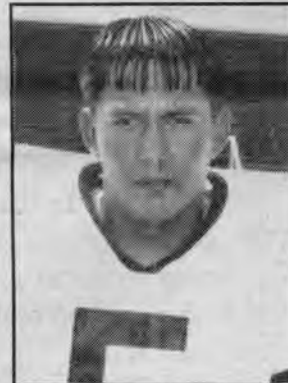
Shawnee senior named all district linebacker

SHAWNEE — Shawnee High School senior James Spain was named all-district linebacker in 6A district four.

He was named all-county honorable mention. Spain received the team leadership award by vote of his teammates also.

Spain is the son of Jack and Julia Spain of Shawnee.

He is the grandson of Jim and Buelah Spain and the late Adam and Jennie Harjochee, all of Okemah.



Spain

Midwest City boy named outstanding wrestler

NORMAN — Midwest City High School senior Jeff Wilson will vie for an individual state championship wrestling title on Feb. 27 and 28 at the Lloyd Noble Center.

A varsity team wrestler at the weight class of 125 pounds, his record for the season is 34-3. He placed in his weight class at the following tournaments: first, Garden City, Kan.; third, national championship, Broken Arrow; and first, east regional, Jenks.

He was named: outstanding wrestler at a Perry High School tournament held in December; and MHS wrestling king by vote of the student body.

Wilson wrestled on the class 5A Midwest City High School State Championship team as a freshman; he placed three times at the state wrestling tournament.



Wilson

The Muscogee-Cherokee has received numerous scholarship offers and plans to pursue a college wrestling career.

He is the son of Paul Wilson and Evelyn Davis Wilson, both of Midwest City.

His grandparents are Bennie and Mollie Wilson of Holdenville and the late Jess Davis of Porum. He has two brothers, Mark and Kenneth Wilson of Midwest City.

Events-workshops

Claremore youth to hold annual stompdance

CLAREMORE — The 4th Annual Claremore Intertribal Youth Council Stompdance will be held from 7 p.m. to midnight, March 14.

The co-host is Tallahassee Wvkokaye Ceremonial Ground. The dance will be held at Rogers University Gymnasium.

Johnson O'Malley conference to be held

TULSA — The 14th Annual Oklahoma Johnson O'Malley Conference will be held March 24 through 26 at the downtown Doubletree Hotel located at 616 W. 7th St.

Cherokee Nation is the host for the conference, "Indian Education: Doing It Right." The conference will begin at 9 a.m. on March 24 and adjourn at noon on March 26.

The conference provides opportunities for school administrators, parents, JOM staff, tribal program staff, tribal leaders, and educators to attend workshops, network, and share program information. Keynote speakers will present Indian education information — legislative issues and its impact throughout Indian country.

Preregistration is \$125 and on-site registration is \$150. The preregistration deadline is March 6. For more information, contact the Cherokee Nation JOM Department at (918) 456-0671.

First school-to-work conference to be held

PHOENIX — The first National American Indian School-to-Work Conference will be held April 26 through 28 at Embassy Suites North.

The conference will: showcase school-to-work activities involving students, parents, communities, and

business and industry for grades kindergarten through six; provide technical assistance in program administration and financial management; and promote school-to-work business and industry partnerships and school-to-work economic development partnerships in Indian communities.

For more information, call the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona at (602) 248-0071.

Opportunities

Employment and training office announces programs

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Employment and Training Office provides Adult Vocational Training, Job Training Partnership Act, and Tribal Vocational-Technical Grant programs to eligible applicants.

The JTPA and AVT programs provide full-time vocational-technical education and training courses at approved institutions which must be completed within 24 months. Programs are designed to provide assistance to eligible participants to gain knowledge and skills necessary to perform a specific job or variety of jobs. These programs are limited to eligible participants living with jurisdictional boundaries.

The adult education program provides assistance with general educational development testing fees and home study on as-needed basis. This program is limited to eligible participants living within jurisdictional boundaries.

The tribal funds grant awards enrolled citizens of the Muscogee Nation attending an approved vocational school, with no minimum blood quantum required. The school determines the full-time or part-time status of the student.

Deadlines are set for each approved school — approximately two weeks prior to the date classes begin.

For more information, call the office at (918) 756-8700, ext. 621.

Tribe accepting applications for grant

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Higher Education Department is accepting applications for the 1998-99 academic year. To apply, students should: possess Certificate Degree of Indian Blood and tribal

please see **EDUCATION...**, page 11

Muscogee alumnus serves Haskell for forty-five years

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Haskell Indian Nations University Board of Regents member Martha Houle has been actively advocating for students, alumnus, and university improvements for 45 years.

Houle's responsibilities as regent include serving on the executive committee of the board of trustees for The Haskell Foundation — a nonprofit fund-raising organization. She has been involved with fund-raising for Haskell at the university, national, and local alumni levels.

Houle, also National Haskell Alumni Association



Houle

president, has undertaken many projects since being elected in 1997. One of her long-term projects has been the beautification of the sports complex entrance. Among other projects she has undertaken was the erection of the university marker.

As president, she organized a collection and distribution program for students lacking basic personal items. Through the distribution of items such as: bed linen; towels; jackets; and other clothing items — Houle and the national alumni association is ensuring that basic student needs are being provided.

With skills obtained through Haskell's commercial department program in 1953, she endeavored began her career as a secretary. Houle was employed as a laboratory technician at Miles Laboratory in Shawnee-Mission, Kan. for 23 years until retiring in 1993. She resides in Shawnee Mission.

Arrivals

Cheyenne Washington

TULSA — Cheyenne Dawn Washington was born Dec. 25 at Columbia Regional Medical Center to Hyatt Washington and Ebony Lynch of Morris.

Paternal grandparents are Donald and Jeanette Washington of Morris.

Maternal grandparents are Marvin and Linda Lynch of Sapulpa.

Great-grandparents are: Betty Bruner of Sapulpa; Isreal Tecumseh of Okmulgee; and Lillian Washington of Okmulgee.



Washington

Girl celebrates birthday with Taz theme

OKMULGEE — Cara Louise Alexander celebrated her 8th birthday Jan. 12 at her home with a Tasmanian Devil party theme.

She is the daughter of Alison Alexander of Okmulgee and Jeff Alexander of Porum.

Alexander is the granddaughter of John and Leah Asbury of Henryetta.

She is in the second grade at Wilson Public Schools. She is Fuswlke (Bird Clan). Alexander is an enrolled member of the Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town and attends Sand Creek Baptist Church.

Attending or sending gifts were: Bryttani Stanton; Gabie Jorgensen; Tasheena Gilly; Tiffany, Robbie, and Brandi Dunn; Aaron Fox; Brandon Fisher; Matt Fisher; Stevy Asbury; her grandmother Asbury, aunt and uncle, Gay and Austin Asbury; and Rex Spradling.



Alexander

Beggs girls celebrates fifth birthday

BEGGS — Karissa Malynn Berryhill celebrated her fifth birthday Oct. 20.

She is the daughter of Kara Crook of Beggs and Michael Berryhill of Denver, Colo.

She is the paternal granddaughter of Jean Wachoce Berryhill of Lawrence, Kan. and Thomas and Janice Berryhill of Duck Creek.

Her maternal grandparents are Wendell and



Berryhill

Wild onion dinners

Tulsa Creek Indian Community

TULSA — Tulsa Creek Indian Community is holding a wild onion dinner from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., March 7.

The dinner will cost \$6 for adults and \$3 for children. It will be held at the community center located at 8611 S. Union.

Arts and crafts vendors may setup tables for \$10 per space. Vendors should bring tables and chairs in order to setup.

For more information, call (918) 298-2464.

Cedar Creek Baptist Church

COWETA — Cedar Creek Baptist Church is holding a wild onion dinner from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., March 7.

The dinner will cost \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children. The menu will include: salt pork or ham; red beans with rice; corn; fry bread; dessert; and a drink.

From Division Street, turn west on Chestnut and drive two blocks to Water Street.

Salt Creek United Methodist Church

HOLDENVILLE — Salt Creek United Methodist Church is holding a wild onion dinner from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., March 7 at Holdenville Indian

Community Center.

The cost for the all-you-can-eat dinner is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children ages 12 and under.

The community center is located at 416 E. Poplar.

Muscogee Indian Community seniors

MUSKOGEE — Muscogee Indian Community Senior Action Group is holding a wild onion dinner and gospel singing on March 21.

The dinner will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will cost \$5 for adults and \$2 for children ages 8 and under.

The gospel singing will begin at 7 p.m.

To participate in the gospel singing call Robert Jones at (918) 682-2164.

Both events will be held at the community center located at 111 S. Virginia.

Confined Inter-Tribal Group

LEXINGTON — Joseph Harp Correctional Center Confined Inter-Tribal Group is holding a wild onion dinner from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., March 17.

To attend individuals must submit their: name, social security number; and date of birth by March 9 to Sgt. Diane Givens, activities officer, fax (405) 527-6379 or mail: Attn. Robert Mitchell #220126; P.O. Box 548; Lexington, OK 73051.

Deanna Crook of Beggs.

Her great-grandparents are: Thomas and the late Blanche Berryhill of Wilson; Elizabeth Porter of Coweta; and Eula and the late Roy Swanson of Beggs.

Natura baby celebrates first birthday

NATURA — Jade Ashton Stallings celebrated her first birthday on Jan. 21 with a Sesame Street theme party attended by relatives and friends.

She is the daughter of Justina Grayson of Natura and Justin Stallings of Okmulgee.

Maternal grandparents are Cheryl Grayson and the late Tommy Grayson of Natura.

Paternal grandparents are Joyce and Adam Stallings of Okmulgee.



Stallings

Sisters celebrate birthdays together

COWETA — Sisters Nora Thomas Nelson and Katie Thomas Smith celebrated their 96th and 86th birthdays together recently.

The sisters were born in Rogers County off the Verdigris River and raised in Broken Arrow. Nelson

of Coweta, was born on Feb. 2, 1902 and Smith of Sprang, was born Jan. 11, 1912.

The sisters are the daughters of Mac and Sarah Thomas. They are the granddaughters of William and Emma Perryman and Phillip and Katie Tiger.

Nelson is in good health and enjoys sewing her clothing and crocheting. She often makes crochet pot holders for her church members. She enjoys attending church, especially on fourth Sundays — to fellowship and eat home-cooked food.



Smith and Nelson

Smith, is a bluegrass singer; she and "The Good Timers Band" travel in the summertime, singing and sharing their talent. She began singing and playing her guitar in church.

Smith enjoys planting a garden and picking enough wild onions in the springtime to share with relatives in the California and Alaska areas.

Obituaries

LORENE CHEEK

FREDERICK — Funeral services for Lorene Norene Cheek were held Dec. 18 at Montezuma Baptist Church with Revs. David Pierce and Kellos Walker officiating.

She died Dec. 15 in Lawton. She was born Nov. 9, 1922 in Okfuskee County to March and Soshoye Harjochee Davis.

She was a homemaker and was married to Johnny Cheek for 53 years.

She was adept at creating beadwork designs and enjoyed beadworking. Many tribal leaders and movie actors have purchased her beadwork. Her work is in a collection in Australia also.

She liked to begin the day by reading scripture. She enjoyed attending church and was secretary for her Sunday school class.

She was preceded in death by: her parents.

She is survived by: her husband of the home; five sons, John King of Oklahoma City, Anderson Cheek of Glenn Heights, Texas, Kenneth Cheek of Tulsa, John Cheek of Arlington, Va., and Jerry Cheek of Albuquerque, N.M.; three daughters, Mary Garcia of Dallas, Texas, Laura Bushyhead of Oklahoma City, and Barbara Collins of Tulsa; two sisters, Josephine Morgan of Morris and Marion Davis of Okmulgee; and 14 grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Dennis Morgan; Tommy Morgan; Michael Morgan; Ronnie Morgan; Buddy King; and Johnny Morgan. Honorary pallbearers were: Kenneth Morgan; James King; Earl King; and Louis Morgan III.

NIXIE HARJO

WETUMKA — Funeral services for Nixie "Shot" Harjo were held Jan. 17 at Sand Creek Baptist Church with Revs. Harry Anderson and Don Walker officiating.

He died Jan. 9 at Oklahoma Veterans Center in Talihina. He was born Nov. 22, 1924 in Hughes County to Bunny and Betsy Fife Harjo.

Harjo was raised in the Wetumka area and attended Mingo School through the eighth grade. He received his high school diploma and attended one year of college at a military academy in Terrel, Texas.

He enlisted in the Army in 1944 and served in Germany. Following his discharge in 1948 he joined the Oklahoma National Guard, serving until 1955.

He attended rodeos regularly with his father, a roping horse trainer who participated in roping events. Harjo participated in breakaway and calf roping events. His style of roping was influenced by the Goodspeed family of Wetumka and the Burk family of Duncan. Being left-handed, he developed his own style. In 1992 and 93 Harjo won the title of Senior Professional Rodeo Association Champion Calf Roper.

He was associated with Sand Creek Baptist Church. Harjo was preceded in death by: his wife, Imogene;



Harjo

mother-in-law, Mary; and sister-in-law, Wanda.

He is survived by: two nephews, Nelson Harjo of Checotah and David Harjo of Norman; two nieces, Betsy Proctor and Judith Harjo of Wetumka; a sister-in-law, Marie Harjo of Wetumka; eight great-nieces and nephews; several great-great nieces and nephews; relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Buddy Kessee; Bronco Harjo; Lance Harjo; Roy Rainwater; Brent Rainwater; and Mel Autry. Honorary pallbearers were: David Harjo; Turner Meadors; Sonny Goodspeed; Ira Hickerson; Bob Arrington; Ricky Bemo; Leon Reynolds; Bobby Burgess; and Jake Clinton.

Interment was in the Harjo Family Cemetery.

ALENE KONTZ

FORT DEFIANCE, Ariz. — Funeral services for Alene Marie Tiger Kontz were held Dec. 6 at Navajo Bible Church with Rev. Bob Hilderman officiating and Rev. Dean Baker assisting.

She died Dec. 3 in Fort Defiance. She was born April 14, 1925 in Coweta to Rev. Thomas and Nicey Chalakee Tiger.

Kontz belonged to the Beaver Clan and Tulsa Canadian Tribal Town. She was a retired postmaster with 28 years of service the U.S. Postal Service, Fort Defiance. She was married to Rex T. Kontz, one of six original Navajo code talkers. She had been a resident of Fort Defiance for 43 years.

She was a member of the: Navajo Bible Church; Navajo Code Talkers Association; Window Rock High School Booster Club; and Lions Club. She volunteered with the local 4-H Club and little league baseball. Kontz had held positions of Sunday school women's and children's teacher, church pianist, and several church offices.

Her hobbies were collecting salt and pepper shakers, nativity sets, cups, and coins. She enjoyed reading, sewing, writing letters, and listening to Christian music.

She was preceded in death by: her grandparents, Rev. Billy and Lilah Tiger and Jimsey and Louvina McCombs Chalakee; her parents; and her husband.

She is survived by: four sons, Thomas Kontz of Aurora, Colo., Richard Kontz, Gallup of N.M., Rex Kontz of Fort Defiance, Ariz., and Warren Kontz of Phoenix, Ariz.; five daughters, Debra Gill of Gallup, N.M., Nicey Tohdihkoontz of Window Rock, Ariz., Maria Tohdihkoontz of Pennsylvania, Cynthia Tahdihkoontz, of Fort Defiance and Geneva Kontz of Honolulu, Hawaii; one brother, Joseph Tiger of Coweta; three sisters, Leona J. Sullivan of Broken Arrow, Ruth Crawley of Dallas, Texas, and Deloise Johnson of Coweta; 25 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Dr. Donald Lewis-Kraitsik; Donovan Mitchell; Obie Sullivan; Angelo Di Paolo; Daniel Garcia; Dale Yerger Jr.; and Mervyn Hillis. Honorary pallbearers were: Navajo Code Talkers and Dimitrio Lucero.

Interment was in Navajo Veterans Cemetery.

TAYLOR SCOTT

STILLWATER — Funeral services for Taylor Barkley Scott were held Feb. 2 at Strode Chapel with Rev. Michael Chace and Drs. David Cockrell and Benny Benson officiating.

He died Jan. 29 at St. Francis Medical Center in Tulsa. He was born Sept. 22, 1917 in Okemah to Bruce and

Effie McKellop Scott.

Scott was a dentist in general practice for 46 years in Stillwater. He retired in 1991. He was member of the: Delta Sigma Delta professional fraternity; U.S. Air Force Dental Corps, having achieved the rank of captain; United Methodist Church; Lions Club; Elks Club; Junior Chamber of Commerce; Chamber of Commerce, serving as president; American Legion; 32nd Degree Mason; Who's Who in America in the South and Southwest Region; and University of Missouri at Kansas City Dental School Alumni, having served as trustee. Scott held office and was a fellow of many professional dental councils, boards, and associations at the state, national, and international level also.

He was preceded in death by: his parents; one son, Taylor; six brothers; and two sisters.

He is survived by: his wife, Delores; one daughter, DeLavon Scott of Stillwater; two grandchildren, Alisa Weatherman of Del City; Dustin Harjo of Stillwater; three sisters, Jean Sawatsky, Viejo, Calif., Virginia Green, McAlester, and Darlene McElyea of Weleetka.

Honorary pallbearers were: John Cathey; Gary Stewart; Gary Lyford; Samuel Delavon; Tommy Gant; Jay McVicker; and John Cooley.

Interment was in Sunset Memorial Gardens.

JOSEPH WASHINGTON

FORT GIBSON — Funeral services for Joseph Washington were held Feb. 13 at Fort Gibson National Cemetery with Rev. Dale Carey officiating.

He died Feb. 10. He was born Nov. 18, 1925 in Oktaha to Peter and Martha "Geegoowie" Buster Washington.

Washington was a veteran of World War II, serving in the Pacific Theater with the U.S. Marine Corps. Upon being honorably discharged from the service, he began a career truck driving. He was employed with Jones Truck Line for 30 years and retired in 1983.

Survivors include: his wife, Joan; one son, Joe Washington Jr.; three daughters, Sandra Carey of Porter, Janet Washington of Oktaha, and Jo Lynn Smith of Enid; two stepdaughters, Karen Tilton of Checotah and Kathy Sorrell of Winchester, Va.; 13 grandchildren; two stepgrandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one great grandchild.

Interment was in the national cemetery.

Religion brief

Little Cussetah announces service times

SCHULTER — Little Cussetah United Methodist Church is holding regular church meetings on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. Regular service begins at 11 a.m. Evening service begins at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday evening bible studies begin at 7 p.m.

Church pastor Nelson Harjo encourages all individuals to attend services.

For more information, call (918) 652-8201.

Wekiwa Baptist lists regular services

SAND SPRINGS — Wekiwa Baptist Church holds church meetings each Sunday and Wednesday.

Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. Regular service begins at 11 a.m. Prayer services begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays.

In other church news — members celebrating birthdays in February were: Hailey Thomas; Melanie Wisdom; David Nelson; and Rueben Kelly. Kelly and wife, Mary, celebrated their anniversary in February.

Tax

continued from page 1

attempts to circumvent these decisions.

The Muscogee Nation, as well as other tribes, are given their authority to tax by the U.S. Congress. This authority has been sustained by the U.S. Supreme Court. From the case *Washington vs. Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation*, (1980) comes the following:

A 1934 Opinion from the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, reads, "Chief among the powers of sovereignty recognized as pertaining to an Indian Tribe is the power of taxation. Except where Congress has provided otherwise, this power may be exercised over members of the tribe and over nonmembers, so far as such nonmembers may accept privileges of trade, residence, etc. To which taxes may be attached as conditions [emphasis added]."

The power to tax transactions [with non-Indians] occurring on trust lands and significantly involving a Tribe or its members is a fundamental attribute of sovereignty which the Tribes retain unless divested of it by federal law or necessary implication of their dependent status."

Non-Indians benefit from Indian \$

Some non-Indians ignorantly assert that American Indians drive on state, city, and county roads, as well send their children to public schools, without paying

taxes, Factor said.

Muscogee National Council Act 95-81 establishes motor vehicle registration for the tribe. This act appropriates all funds, from revenue generated from the registration of vehicles, for upkeep of tribal roads and public safety. These roads are travelled by tribal members and non-Indians — at no cost to them or the state. In addition, within the State of Oklahoma, federal funds supplement the state for roads in areas largely populated by American Indians. Federal funds appropriated for Oklahoma state roads because of its American Indian population total:

- \$12.5 million in 1997 and;
- \$14.75 million is projected for 1998.

These federal funds overcompensate for any potential state motor vehicle registration revenue loss and are spent specifically for roads.

Children benefit from federal monies

Federal dollars coming into the State of Oklahoma for the education of American Indian children are approximately \$29 million. In some cases, this money is utilized specifically for Indian programs, but generally goes into the school's general fund — for the benefit of all students.

Oklahoma state apportionment

Factor recommends non-Indians scrutinize the apportionment of their license tag money by the State of Oklahoma:

- the first \$141,500 is remitted to the state treasurer to

be credited to the Oklahoma Tax Commission;

- the next \$183,500 is remitted to the state treasurer to be credited to the general revenue fund;
- 35 percent to various school districts;
- 46.67 percent is remitted to the state treasurer to be credited to the general fund;
- three-tenths of one percent to the state transportation fund;
- seven percent to various counties for roads;
- two and one-half percent matching federal funds for the construction of federal aid projects on roads;
- three and one-half percent to the county highway fund;
- eight-tenths of one percent for deposit to the county general fund to support county government;
- three percent to various cities and incorporated towns for the construction and maintenance of streets and alleys;
- one and one-half percent to the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement Fund; and
- three-hundredths of one percent to the Wildlife Conservation Fund.

In summation, for every motor vehicle registration dollar paid to the state:

- less than 16 cents goes to roads;
- less than 35 cents goes to schools; and
- 49 cents goes to support state and local governments.

Order

continued from page 1

their products were actually sold by businesses licensed by the tribe itself.

Moore rejected such arguments. "The fact that defendants are corporations with headquarters outside of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is irrelevant to the jurisdictional issues," he wrote. "In the present case, the alleged action occurred in Indian country."

Hutton said it is also irrelevant that the businesses that sold the tobacco products are so closely associated with the tribe. "The smoke shops are really a non-issue," he said. "In the state capitals, there are cigarette vending machines. The states sell cigarettes. The tribes sell cigarettes."

A specific amount in damages will be requested once the lawsuits are filed, Hutton said, adding it will be in the "tens of millions."

"We are doing the accounting even as we speak," he said. In addition to the lawsuits, he said the favorable decision by Moore will add pressure on Congress to treat tribes fairly as they move on the \$368.5 billion global tobacco settlement hammered out by the state attorneys general and the industry last year.

"Whatever the states receive, the Native Americans should receive," Hutton said.

That settlement, however, appears to be in serious trouble in Congress as key lawmakers such as U.S. Sen. Don Nickles, R-Okla., believe they should move slowly, if at all, in putting it into law.

In exchange for paying the \$368.5 billion, the industry wants immunity from class-action lawsuits.

Such a move currently does not appear to have the necessary votes to pass Congress. Even if it did, no decision has been made on just how the billions of dollars offered by the industry should be split between the states and the federal government.

The tribes' demands could add to that debate.

Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearings-markups-meetings

March 4

A committee business meeting to: markup the committee's budget views and estimates letter to the budget committee regarding the president's budget request for Fiscal Year 1999 for Indian programs; and Indian provisions contained in tobacco settlement legislation (S. 1414, 1415, and 1530) will be held.

A hearing on S. 1280 — to provide technical corrections to the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 — will immediately follow.

March 11

An oversight hearing on sovereign immunity issues will be held. (Issues to be announced.)

March 18

An oversight hearing on implementation of the Indian Arts and Crafts Act of 1990 will be held. The hearings will focus on the arts and crafts board activities, resource needs, and mission.

activities, resource needs, and mission.

March 25

A hearing on Indian gaming. (Subject to be announced.)

April 1

An oversight hearing on barriers to credit and lending in Indian country will be held.

April 22

An oversight hearing on Title V — amendments to the Self-Governance Act — will be held.

April 29

An oversight hearing on Indian gaming will be held. (Subject to be announced.)

All meetings begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Russell Senate Building.

Oklahoma senators and representatives to the United States

U.S. senators

U.S. senators of all states may be contacted by writing:

Office of Senator (name)
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510-3603

Oklahoma U.S. senators

James Inhofe (R)
(202) 224-4721
e-mail: administrator@inhofe.senate.gov

Don Nickles (R)

(202) 224-5754

e-mail: senator@nickles.senate.gov

Oklahoma U.S. representatives

- Steve Largent (R-district 1)
- Tom Coburn (R-district 2)
- Wes Watkins (R-district 3)
- J.C. Watts Jr. (R-district 4)
- Earnest Istook Jr. (R-district 5)
- Frank Lucas (R-district 6)

State

continued from page 6

Indians by giving tax incentives to businesses operating on Indian land and hiring Indians;

- in other positive developments for the tribe, our community centers at Weleetka, Sapulpa, and Twin Hills are progressing, with some of the centers in their final construction phases;

- another exciting accomplishment is the Muscogee Nation Child Care Center, currently under construction; its estimated completion date is in March. The child care center, with 12,552 square feet, will house child care offices, a provider-training center, and accommodate children ages six weeks to 12 years. Also, the Holdenville Child Care Center opened in June. We are researching other sites to open child care centers within Muscogee Nation boundaries also;

- a major accomplishment of my administration has been the enactment of a motor fuels ordinance which has enabled us to increase our tribal revenue through taxation on motor fuels (House Bill 2208). I am proud to announce that we just received our first payment for the quarter from the Oklahoma Tax Commission — \$419,866;

- through pursuing an aggressive investment policy, the permanent fund has had a 38 percent growth since it was established. During fiscal year 1997, the growth was approximately 25 percent — compared to a certificate of deposit rate return of approximately 5.41

percent. If we had implemented the bond issue for the travel plaza, as I had wanted to do, the funds utilized for the travel plaza would have benefitted from this growth also; and

- as far as technological advances, tribal information became accessible through its web page via the World Wide Web — this is a revolutionary resource for us and we are all very proud of this accomplishment.

An overall profile of the tribal government to date includes a tribal enrollment of 43,000 members, with the citizenship board enrolling new citizens every day.

The tribal government employs a skilled work force of 455 employees with an additional 300 employed at the three tribal bingo facilities and 350 at the health administration.

We have tribal land holdings of: 5,649.5 acres of trust land; 326 acres of unallotted lands; and during 1997 we have fee land — 39.95 acres — pending application for trust status. For tribal programs, we have 67 facilities totaling 463,589 square feet of office and building space which totals to an estimated dollar value of \$7,821,300.

Once again, 1997 has been a challenging year and no doubt 1998 will be also. My goals for the coming year remain the same:

- employment;
- education; and
- healthcare opportunities for Muscogee citizens.

The major problems and issues that we may face should not be those that divide us as branches of this

government, or as a tribe of people, but become, instead, issues that unite us — that provide a rallying point for us to unite in teamwork. We should all have the same agenda, not a personal agenda, but one that benefits the tribe.

As the old axiom goes — “United We Stand, Divided We Fall.”

Thank you for your support and prayers during the past year — this year we will be met by many difficult challenges, but by laying aside our differences, focusing on the common goal of a strong Muscogee Nation, and making a better future for our children, we can succeed. During difficult times I remind myself of the strength that we as a tribe of people possess — our history reflects that we have endured many hardships and times of despair, but we have always persevered — but only as everyone stood together in Unity. This again is the challenge and the hope that I leave with you today. Our unity is our strength.

Editor's note: This is an edited version of Muscogee Nation Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver's State of the Nation address. The tribal constitution, at Article 5, section 4, requires the principal chief to deliver the speech every year.

Copies of the speech in its entirety are available on videocassette from the communications department.

For more information, contact Gerald Wofford, audiovisual specialist, at (918) 756-8700, ext. 300.

Education

continued from page 7

citizenship cards; be planning to attend an accredited two-year junior college or four-year university located within the U.S.; and apply for federal financial aid at their college or university and complete the Federal Aid Financial Student Application form to be eligible for the Self Governance Higher Education grant.

Applications will be mailed from February through May 31. Written requests should be submitted to receive an application.

Students may apply for the Self Governance Higher Education Grant until June 1 and the Muscogee Nation Higher Education Tribal Grant until June 15.

Students receiving grants currently must submit recent grade reports or transcripts and meet requirements to receive a renewal form. Renewal forms will be mailed March 1 and should be returned by June 1.

For more information, contact the higher education office at: P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447; call, (918) 756-8700 or 1 (800) 482-1979, exts. 614, 615, 616.

OSU receives grant for Indian students

STILLWATER — Oklahoma State University received one of three, three-year \$210,000 Indian Health Services grants to fund its American Indians into Psychology program.

The proposal was written by the OSU Graduate College. The American Indians into Psychology program encourages American Indians to enter mental health fields.

In response to the disparate ratio (one in 8,333) of American Indian mental health service providers to the

American Indian population, the program promotes the outreach and recruitment of American Indian undergraduate students into OSU's graduate programs in psychology. The program intends to increase the number of American Indians in its mental health programs so that American Indians compose 25 percent of the total enrollment of Ph.D. programs.

The program relies on the integration of higher education and tribal understanding. In order to facilitate communication between future mental health workers and tribal communities, an advisory board composed of tribal representatives has been established.

Tribes currently affiliated with the program include the: Iowa; Otoe; Muscogee; Ponca; Cherokee; Chickasaw; Osage; Wyandotte; Ottawa; Eastern Shawnee; Modoc; Miami; and Quapaw tribes. Additionally, program participants will serve as interns in tribal mental health facilities, giving them experiences and insights into the problems faced by American Indians daily.

Strategies to promote the program and increase the number of American Indians in the mental health field include: summer enrichment programs; internships in tribal mental health facilities; Psychology Career Day for American Indian students; and graduate assistantships.

Berkeley seeks Indian graduate students

BERKELEY, Calif. — The American Indian Graduate Program is seeking American Indian-Alaska Native students to apply to graduate programs.

The programs are: business administration; chemistry; education; engineering; environmental design; ethnic studies; journalism; law; letters and sciences; natural resources; optometry; public health; public policy;

and social welfare.

For more information, contact: American Indian Graduate Program, 140 Warren Hall, University of California, Berkeley, CA 94720-7360; (510) 642-3228; fax, (510) 642-3583; or e-mail, AIGP@uclink.berkeley.edu

Book on school-to-work experiences published

CHARLESTON, W. Va. — ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools has published a book disputing common beliefs about the lack of opportunities for rural youth to participate in worthwhile school-to-work experiences in their communities.

Creating such opportunities, authors Bruce A. Miller and Karen J. Hahn emphasize, requires schools, community members, and policy makers to work together. Miller and Hahn describe how the programs in three small, rural communities succeeded and offer timely advice to others considering similar endeavors.

“Finding Their Own Place” includes information about positive practices for school-to-work programs and how schools and communities can work together to better meet the needs of youth.

Administrators will learn the importance of building a strong support base for bringing about school reform. They will also find strategies for sustaining changes. Community development practitioners will learn to see the school as an important player in addressing community needs.

“Finding Their Own Place: Youth in three Small Rural Communities Take Part in Instructive School-to-Work Experiences,” is available by contacting: ERIC Clearinghouse on Rural Education and Small Schools, P.O. Box 1348, Charleston, WV 25325-1348; 1 (800) 624-9120; or e-mail ericrc@ael.org

Muscogee Nation Quarterly Financial Statement

Quarter ending Sept. 30, 1997

Prepared by the office of the controller

Program name	Receipts	Budget	Encumbered	Expended	Unencumbered
ICUSA	2,651	166,772	0	166,772	0
MCN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	6,508	87,337	0	13,794.44	73,542
TREASURY	53,443	49,503	0	49,503	0
LITIGATION AND LOBBYING	13,471	178,465	0	83,988	94,476
GENERAL TAXES AND LICENSES	1,339,172	1,664,580	0	1,581,886	62,693
ADMINISTRATION/INDIRECT	1,969,538	2,110,403	0	1,896,106	214,296
CONSUMER LOANS	26,832	0	0	49,195	(49,195)
CREEK NATION BINGO	1,622,268	0	0	2,049,026	328,893
MCN PERMANENT FUND	1,431,858	756,398	0	665,013	91,384
TOM JOHNSON PERMANENT FUND	262,764	0	0	21,106	(21,106)
BEAR STEARNS PERMANENT FUND	35,193	0	0	0	0
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	867	1,000	0	665	334
TRIBAL BUDGET	1,333,271	1,308,577	0	787,335	521,241
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DIVISION	463,069	519,147	0	463,069	56,078
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING	137,985	636,742	0	137,985	498,756
INDIAN HOME GRANT	481,401	665,858	0	481,401	184,457
INDIAN HOME PROGRAM	147,845	1,035,000	0	147,845	887,154
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES	415,005	420,956	0	415,005	5,951
L.I.H.E.A.P. 96	7,424	7,425	0	7,424	0
95 CCDBG	1,073,467	1,430,497	0	1,073,467	357,030
HEAD START PROJECT II	805,992	808,101	0	805,992	2,108
FAMILY PRESERVATION	143,308	148,896	0	143,308	5,587
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENT	12,689	54,635	0	12,689	41,945
LIHEAP 97	80,347	135,898	0	80,347	55,550
CCDBG 96	301,218	1,553,494	0	301,218	1,252,275
FAMILY PRESERVATION 97	3	158,152	0	3	158,148
CCDBG 97 MANDATORY FUNDS	585,736	3,101,826	0	585,736	2,516,089
HEAD START 97	893,535	1,120,642	0	893,535	227,106
TITLE IV-B	200,487	233,402	0	200,487	32,914
TRIBAL AFFAIRS DIVISION	725	0	0	0	0
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DIVISION	20,883	24,990	0	20,883	4,106
ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION	3,316	16,801	0	3,316	13,484
LIBRARY SERVICE/BASIC	3,550	4,557	0	3,550	1,006
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	282,640	282,640	0	282,640	0
MUSKOGEE HEAD START	20,235	38,307	0	20,235	18,072
HEAD START USDA REIMBURSE	70,362	96,763	0	70,362	26,401
EUFAULA DORMITORY ACTIVITY FUND	41,181	0	0	0	0
ELECTION BOARD	5,650	0	0	0	0
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	5,784	4,200	0	4,200	0
REVOLVING FUND	321	4,882	0	0	4,882
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL — HS	5,109	35,690	0	15,169	20,521
BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL — CC	0	0	0	0	0
SELF GOVERNANCE COMPACT	4,787,431	5,198,818	0	4,787,431	411,386
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DIVISION	27,431	96,310	0	27,431	68,879
EUFAULA DORMITORY	1,051,546	1,134,638	0	1,051,546	83,092
TRIBAL SELF GOVERNANCE	14	1,299	0	1,299	0
BIA TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT	5,449	5,449	0	5,449	0
SELF GOVERNANCE NEGOTIATION GRANT	31	1,315	0	1,174	140
COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING	0	391	0	391	0
TRIBAL AFFAIRS DIVISION	615,832	894,927	0	615,832	279,095
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	0	0	0	0	0
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	199,792	199,792	0	199,792	0
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT	41,086	46,529	0	41,086	5,442
KELLYVILLE BRIDGE	697,370	835,750	0	697,370	138,379
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	9,861	12,940	0	9,861	3,078
JOM	885,221	956,020	0	885,221	70,798
EUFAULA DORMITORY 97	0	396,400	0	0	396,400
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT	0	39,597	0	0	39,597
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING	8,162	21,659	0	8,162	13,496
HEAD START — FY 1996	39,527	39,560	0	39,527	32
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	51,948	82,192	0	51,948	30,244
CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROGRAM	42,419	132,137	0	42,419	89,718
COMMUNITY CENTERS PROJECT	266,903	796,258	0	266,903	529,355
COMMUNITY SERVICE BUILDING	21,050	6,789	0	6,786	2
TRAVEL PLAZA ENTERPRISE	598,938	168,946	0	160,804	8,142
TRAVEL PLAZA	1,800,000	1,649,415	0	1,681,116	(31,701)
ICDBG/LEARNING CENTER	57,355	739,959	0	57,355	682,603
TRIBAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM	8,583	22,761	0	11,669	11,091
LIGHTHORSE SERVICES	280,252	393,210	0	381,037	12,172
COMMUNICATIONS REVOLVING FUND	1,665	100	0	0	100
MCN FLAGS, ETC.	219	0	0	0	0
ROADS EQUIPMENT POOL	407,845	425,000	0	285,982	139,017
MOTOR VEHICLE	424,267	178,825	0	166,773	12,052
MCN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	36,046	20,955	0	13,541	7,413
TRIBAL REAL PROPERTY AND FACILITIES	875,482	911,311	0	900,704	10,606
TRIBAL PROPERTY AND SUPPLY	168,665	208,353	0	193,748	14,604
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	199,608	69,025	0	13,604	55,421
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	24	0	0	0	0
MCN FUND — DONATION FUND	5,199	0	0	7,593	(7,593)
FESTIVAL COMMITTEE	774	2,060	0	32,929	(30,868)
TOTALS	27,723,132	36,909,163	0	26,180,767	10,728,396

Quarterly
treasury
report
narrative

In accordance with National Council Act 88-70, section 112, as amended by National Council Act 89-37, the following information for the period ending Sept. 30, 1997 discloses the receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditures, and unencumbrances for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. These figures have not been audited.

The receipts are dollar amounts received for the period ending Sept. 30, 1997. The figures include, but are not limited to federal dollars received on grant or contract, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the three quarters ending Sept. 30, 1997.

The budget figure represents the amounts approved as of Sept. 30, 1997 in the annual comprehensive budget.

The encumbered amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the quarter.

Expended amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund.

Unencumbered figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of Sept. 30, 1997.

Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 756-8700, ext. 250.



The Muscogee Nation News

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March 1998, 8 pages

Assistant secretary receives welcome home

NORMAN — Since the appointment of Kevin Gover to Assistant Secretary of the Interior in November, Muscogee Nation leaders are among many Oklahoma tribal officials feeling confident about their representation at the U.S. capital.

Muscogee Nation officials were among many tribal representatives welcoming the Oklahoma native home during a reception held in his honor March 20.



Gover

Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver, was among many tribal leaders making presentations and extending regards to Gover. Leaders expressed their confi-

dence in his ability to lead the fight for tribal sovereign rights.

Assistant secretary appoints chief to self-governance committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Assistant Secretary of the Interior Kevin Gover recently appointed Muscogee Nation Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver to the Department of Interior Self-Governance Advisory Committee.

Beaver was appointed along with several other Indian tribal leaders from throughout the U.S.

"In light of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation being one of the original self-governance tribes, this is a critical appointment — not only to the Creek Tribe, but for all of Indian country as well. I am honored to serve in this appointment," Beaver said.

The first advisory committee meeting will be held April 13 in Las Vegas, Nev.



Beaver

"We feel like we have a voice from Oklahoma in our nation's capitol now with the appointment of Kevin Gover and we are all behind him with our support." Beaver remarked.

Gover, 42, is a member of the Pawnee Tribe. He was raised in Lawton and is part Comanche. He had been practicing Indian law in Albuquerque for the last 11 years.

Also attending the event were: Muscogee National Council representative Richard Berryhill; Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town Mekko Rebecca Torres;

Kialegee Tribal Town Mekko June Fixico; and Thlopthlocco Tribal Town Mekko Grace Bunner.

Chief Justice issues stay Companies appeal court order

OKMULGEE — Responding to tobacco companies' appeal to a tribal lawsuit, Muscogee Nation Supreme Court Chief Justice Roger Wiley issued an order to stay district court proceedings March 4.

Filed last month by Tribal District Court Judge Patrick Moore, the order seeks relief for damages allegedly caused by the manufacturing, marketing, and sale of tobacco. Muscogee Nation seeks to collect millions of dollars spent on tribal health-care costs for smoking-related illness.

The tobacco companies filed to appeal the order on Feb. 20 in the tribal Supreme Court. In its motion to dismiss filed Nov. 7, the defendants contend tobacco wholesalers, not companies, conduct business with the tribe and disputes the tribes jurisdiction.

Moore's Feb. 12 order reads: "The act of entry upon the territorial jurisdiction by any extraterritorial seller or merchant, or their agent(s) shall be considered consent by the seller or merchant to the jurisdiction of Courts of the Muscogee Nation for any dispute arising out of any sale of commercial transaction regardless of where the sale or transaction was entered or took place."

Energy assistance applications for home cooling available in early April

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation Social Services will begin accepting applications for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for home cooling on April 1.

The program assists eligible American Indians living within Muscogee Nation jurisdictional boundaries. To receive assistance through LIHEAP, applicant must:

- provide verification of total household income (check stub, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Social Security, etc.);
- provide verification of head of household's possession of Certificate Degree of Indian blood;
- provide Social Security numbers for all individuals residing in household;
- submit electric bill in the name of head of household; and
- not have been a recipient of similar funding from the department of human services or other agencies. For more information, call: (918) 756-8700, ext. 279; or 1 (800) 482-1979.

Veteran receives Purple Heart after 54 years

by Gerald Wofford

TULSA — In an era where the nightly news sells human benevolence as trivial heroism, it is humbling to know a man would bravely perform for his country and quietly wait over 50 years for acknowledgment.

While serving as an Army scout in the European Theater, Pvt. Leo Bland received wounds meriting the Purple Heart award while fighting the enemy.

Bland's duties as first scout included land surveillance and exploration. After obtaining information on land conditions and the proximity of the enemy, he reported findings to his superiors.

Bland took part in D-Day — the operation in which

Citizen helps vet get Purple Heart

MUSKOGEE — Fifty-four years after being wounded near the Rhine River, World War II veteran Leo Bland received his Purple Heart award with the assistance of National Service Officer Amos Harjo.

Bland has sought the medal since 1993

see MOPH..., page 2

Allied forces attacked northern France and allowed them to gain a foothold in Nazi-controlled, mainland Europe. After participating in the invasion he, along with thousands of other American soldiers, saw the Allies roll across France and prepare to enter Nazi-Germany by crossing the historic Rhine River.

Although it inevitably lost the war, Germany did not surrender easily. The Nazis dug-in for one last stand to keep their "Fatherland" from being invaded. On Dec. 4, 1944 Bland was shot by the enemy. He recalls the events that led up to one of the most memorable events in his life.



Bland

please see PURPLE HEART..., page 2

Letters to the editor

Woman seeks information on family

Editor:

I am seeking information on the family of my great-grandmother, Martha "Annie" Murphy, who was Muscogee.

She was born in Coosa County, Sylacauga, Ala. in 1881 to Alex Murphy and Lula Belle Adams. Her sister's name was Belle Murphy. Martha Murphy married Edward Dobson, together they had six children.

I would like individuals with information about my family to call me collect at: (520) 432-5806; or write, P.O. Box 1548, Bisbee, AZ 85603.

Carmen Chambers, Bisbee, Ariz.

Citizen finds article helpful, offers suggestion

Editor:

I read the article "Commissioner reaffirms tribes' legal rights to tax, register members' vehicles" in the February issue of *The Muscogee Nation News*. The information was very helpful.

I live in Tulsa, outside the jurisdictional boundaries of the Muscogee Nation, and am not eligible to receive a tribal tag. A printed listing of tribal jurisdictional boundary lines would be helpful for Oklahoma tribal citizens.

Bettie Sue Gaines, Tulsa

Purple Heart

continued from page 1

"It was about 6:30 in the morning and there was snow on the ground. We were in some woods. So our captain said we were going to have to take that hill. There was this little hill, about 500 feet. He said 'there's not supposed to be anybody up there!' So we

went up there, I...and a second scout about 20 feet behind me. So as soon as I started up this little hill, somebody shot at me. So I got back down and told [the second scout] — 'go tell him that there's somebody up there and I don't know if we have enough men to take it.' Bland remembers the captain saying 'well, you're gonna have to go in and see, go ahead and go on.' So we did and we drew a bunch of it [fire]! There was a bunch in there...they started shooting at us from a little town which was a quarter of a mile over to our left. So we looked down and there was about four or six Germans running down below us. We was on a hill, and the town was on a hill, and the Germans

were down below us...we started shooting at them.

I got hit...in the shoulder, then I got hit in the legs, and the groin area. So we had to get out of the line of

Widow appreciates support offered to bingo

Editor:

I would like to thank everyone that supported me through attending a benefit bingo held to assist me with the funeral expenses of my husband, Kendall Thompson.

I appreciate the support offered by Apeka, Asilanvpe, Nuyaka, Ocevpofo, and Pykan Tallahassee ceremonial ground members.

I am grateful to relatives and individuals that offered monetary contributions, food goods, and their time. Mvto, mvto.

Melinda Thompson, Henryetta

Hospital director thanks Indian students

Editor:

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Eastside Elementary School Indian Education program students for their donation of valentines in honor of the National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans.

The valentines helped to make the day brighter for those in the hospital.

The students' support of our nation's hospitalized veterans is truly appreciated.

Billy M. Valentine, Muskogee

Editor's note: Valentine is the director of the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Muskogee.

fire...the medic who was with us started dressing my wounds and he said, 'we're gonna have to go back to our command post.' So they put us in jeeps and ambulances and took us back. We drove until dark; that's when [military officials] offered to give me my Purple Heart. I told them 'I can't carry it, so just send it home.' It never did get there."

Like thousands of other American soldiers, Bland made efforts to assimilate into civilian life and make positive contributions to society. As the years passed by, Bland did not pursue his award.

On Jan. 12 Bland was officially presented the Purple Heart at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #577.

He said he is grateful for his award and the recognition associated with it — as well as the opportunity to serve the U.S.

Editor's note: Leo Bland belongs to Locapoka Tribal Town. He is the son of the late Lewis and Jeanetta Haikey Bland [Pakoska]. He and his wife, Virginia, reside in Glenpool.

Videos of the ceremony in which Leo Bland was officially pre-

sented the Purple Heart are available from Muscogee Nation Communications. For more information, contact Gerald Wofford at (918) 756-8700, ext. 300.

Legal notice

Printed in *The Muscogee Nation News*, volume 27, issue 3, March 1998.

In the matter of L.T.S., minor Muscogee (Creek) child, case no. JV 97-07.

Notice of hearing to Diane Schexnider and Gene Bloomfield, parents of L.T.S.

You are hereby given notice of a hearing on the above-styled and numbered case for the purpose of adjudication-disposition of your parental rights in the District Courtroom of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Tribal Complex at Okmulgee, Oklahoma on the 8th day of April 1998 at 9 a.m.

You are hereby informed that it is sought by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation that the child remain a ward of the court and custody be continued in the children and family services administration program for continued foster placement or possible pre-adoptive placement.

You are further informed that you have the right to be represented by legal counsel at this hearing.

I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of March, 1998.

(s) Patrick E. Moore, district court judge

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Stephanie Berryhill, managing editor
Summer Barnes, secretary

MOPH

continued from page 1

with a couple of false starts. It was not until 1996 that Military Order of the Purple Heart National Service Officer Harjo tackled the case wrought with time-consuming forms and verification of events and records.

Bland credits Harjo, a tribal citizen and the country's only American Indian national service officer for the MOPH, with helping him obtain it. "Amos Harjo...he said 'I'll get it for you' and he did. He worked really hard to get it."

Among other awards that Harjo helped Bland obtain are: Bronze Star Medal; Good Conduct Medal; European Campaign Medal (Bronze, Silver and Arrowhead); WWII Victory Medal; Army of Occupation Medal; and Combat Infantryman Badge.

The order to establish the Purple Heart was issued by Gen. George Washington during the Revolutionary War. The MOPH is the only congressionally-chartered veterans organization exclusively for the combat wounded. It makes applications and advocates for veterans to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following are the actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the Feb. 28 regular session.

Absent were **Johnson Buck**, Tukvptce, and **George Tiger**, Creek.

The following veto message was acted upon:

- overrode (20-4) the principal chief's veto of National Council Act 98-02 — amending NCA 95-105 and providing for revenue sharing of proceeds from the truck plaza projects.

In his veto message, **Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver** wrote that the bill authorizes the Nation's chartered communities to determine who should receive retail tobacco licenses. "By giving chartered communities the power to deny or grant retail tobacco licenses, NCA 98-02 impermissibly delegates an executive function...to an entity or agency that is not part of the executive branch...."

- Voting yes were (representatives listed alphabetically, followed by district): **Roger Barnett**, Creek; **Roy Bear**, Creek; **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Kenneth Childers**, Tulsa; **Helen Chupco**, Muskogee; **A.D. Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Bill Fife**, Okfuskee; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Jim B. Harjo**, Okmulgee; **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa; **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa; **Earl King**, Tulsa; **Harley Little**, Muskogee; **Famous Marshall**, Okfuskee; **Abe McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Tommy Pickering**, McIntosh; and **Bruce Smith**, Okfuskee.

Voting no were: **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh; **Dave Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Dewayne Lowe**, Tukvptce; and **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce.

Speaker **Childers**, Glenpool, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In Council business:

- approved unanimously (23-0) NCA 98-01, amending NCA 81-39, specifying per diem allowable for all tribal board members at \$45 per meeting, excluding the citizenship board of which members will receive a new stipend of \$75 per meeting. The citizenship board requested the increase in order to "adequately fulfill [its] Constitutional responsibility to establish and maintain the citizenship roll...."

- approved unanimously (23-0) NCA 98-04, amending and adding new provisions to NCA 89-84, establishing authority and powers of the gaming operations authority board;

- approved unanimously (23-0) NCA 98-06, authorizing the Nation to participate in the federal government discount airfare and charge account programs. The Nation spent \$124,630 on official government travel during Fiscal Year 1997. The program will provide the Nation a 60 percent savings for airline travel;

- approved (22-1) NCA 98-12, amending NCA 92-95 to allow the principal chief and Tulsa Creek Indian Community to negotiate a new land use agree-

Tribal hospital celebrates 20th anniversary

Feb. 23 marked the 20th anniversary of Creek Nation Community Hospital. Awarded and for 20 years of service were staff members, left to right, front row: Teresa Hargrove, licensed practical nurse; Elvania Swayze, business office coordinator; and Helen Tiger, nurse's aid. Commending them were Council members, back row: Thomas Yahola, Tukvptce District; Famous Marshall, Okfuskee District; Barbara Gillespie, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes District; Bill Fife, Okfuskee District; and Kenneth Childers, Tulsa District.



photo by Gerald Wofford

ment for the TCIC smokeshop located on the Mackey Sand Bar site. Voting no was **Lewis**, Okmulgee;

- approved unanimously (23-0) NCA 98-17, amending NCA 97-109 to provide assistance from the special academic-extracurricular program to citizens that are not eligible for other tribal educational programs and increasing program funding to \$30,000;

- approved (14-8-1) NCA 98-19, a bill amending NCA 97-07 to specify that the ceremonial ground and church grant program be financed permitting the availability of funds;

Voting no were: **Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Fife**, Okfuskee; **Hufft**, Tulsa; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Pickering**, McIntosh; and **Yahola**, Tukvptce. Abstaining was **Nichols**, Okmulgee;

- approved unanimously (23-0) NCA 98-20, appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of \$30,000 for technological upgrades for National Council office equipment;

Gouge, McIntosh, was excused from the meeting.

- approved unanimously (22-0) NCA 98-23, appropriating one-twelfth of the health systems administration budget at the FY 97 level;

National Council business and governmental committee schedules sales tax hearings to be held at tribal community centers in April

OKMULGEE — The National Council Business and Governmental Committee is scheduling hearings on National Council Act 98-05 — a bill providing for the establishment of a sales tax code.

Hearings will be set for April and will be held in regionally accessible tribal community centers.

Specific hearing dates, times, and locations will be broadcast on the Muscogee Nation tribal news

- approved (21-0) Tribal Resolution 98-01, the annual work plan and tribal inventory for the Muscogee Nation Home Improvement Program. **Marshall**, Okfuskee, did not vote;

- approved (21-0) National Council Resolution 98-03, adopting the rules of procedures of the National Council;

- approved (21-0) NCA 98-25, expending interest monies, \$28,300, generated by the investment of Johnson O'Malley program funds for: school payments, \$22,000; exemplary scholarships, \$5,000; and staff travel, \$1,300;

- approved (21-0) TR 98-06, opposing federal legislation that would interfere with Indian tribes' sovereign immunity, tribal self-governance, and place tribal funds and assets at risk; and

- approved (21-0) a motion to recommend the tribal attorney general attempt to facilitate a compromise between plaintiffs **Myron Taylor** and **Jo Ann Skaggs**, and defendants **Carney Roberts**, **Beatrice Sanders**, and **Frank Kamp**. **Taylor** and **Skaggs**, former tribal health administration employees, have filed wrongful termination suits against **Roberts** and **Sanders**, tribal health systems board members, and **Kamp** — a board member at the time of their termination — in tribal district court.

program which airs at 9:30 a.m. each Wednesday on KOKL-AM 1360.

For more information, contact the National Council office at (918) 756-8700, ext. 346.

Business and governmental committee members **George Tiger**, **Roger Barnett**, and **Robert Hufft** are coordinating the hearings.

Programs-notices

Summer youth program taking applications

OKMULGEE — Applications for the Muscogee Nation Summer Youth Employment Program are being accepted through April 24 at the tribal Job Training Partnership Act office.

Applications will be taken from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of each week. Program staff recommends applicants arrive at the JTPA office 15 to 20 minutes early. It will take two hours to complete the application and evaluation.

The purpose of the SYEP is to provide Native American youth with the opportunity to earn work experience that may assist them in making career choices as well as offer immediate financial benefits.

The following documentation must be provided in order to complete the application:

- Certificate Degree of Indian Blood card;
- Social Security card;
- verification of income for the last six months (this includes wages from employment, Social Security, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, etc.);
- verification of residence within the jurisdictional boundaries of Muscogee Nation;
- documentation of registration with the Selective Service for males ages 18 and older;
- copy of high school transcript, high school diploma, or general educational development certificate; college students should provide copies of college transcripts and documentation of application for financial aid;
- applicants must verify that they will be 16 years of age by June 8 or will not be older than 22 years of age before July 31; and
- copy of a Indian Health Service or tribal hospital or clinic card verifying chart number or the name of private physician.

College students that are not able to apply by April 24 should contact the JTPA office to make arrangements for completing applications.

Information booklets containing program specifics have been sent to local schools and tribal community centers. For more information, contact Muscogee Nation JTPA office at: (918) 756-8700, ext. 618; or 1 (800) 482-1979.

Dates set for annual diabetes camp

SEMINOLE — The annual Muscogee Nation diabetes camp, Camp Cvmplke, is being held April 22 through 24 at St. Crispin's retreat.

The camp is coordinated by the Okemah Health System Promotion-Disease Prevention Program. The camp consists of two overnight stays and three days of education and activities. There is no cost to attend.

To be eligible to attend individuals must be: American Indian; diabetic; and reside within Muscogee Nation jurisdictional boundaries.

Its intent is to provide: knowledge and an understanding of diabetes; nutrition skills; information on how kidneys and eyes are affected by diabetes; an understanding of diabetes medication; and foot care information. For more information, call the program at 1 (888) 623-4397.

Oil and gas outreach meeting being held

CANADIAN — The Bureau of Indian Affairs,

Harjo to be featured in play; Poetic Justice to perform

TULSA — Internationally acclaimed Mvskoke poet and musician Joy Harjo will be featured in the Tulsa Indian Actor's Workshop production, "Good person of L.A.," March 26, 27 and 29.

The script features original poems and songs composed by Harjo. Originally from Tulsa, Harjo is one of the best known contemporary Native American poets.



Harjo

She will guest star in the production playing a street poet-musician.

The play will be held at Liddy Doenges Studio in the Tulsa Performing Arts Center. For more information, call TIAW at (918) 836-4617.

As part of the Fourth Annual Celebration of Books, Joy Harjo and Poetic Justice will perform at 4 p.m., March 28 at Tulsa Central Library's Aaronson Auditorium. Admission is \$2.

Harjo will be a guest on the March 28 program of "Oklahoma Indian Forum," a call-in radio show which airs on KAKC-AM 1300 from 10 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays.

Muscogee Area Office, Minerals Program has scheduled an oil and gas outreach meeting on April 29 at Arrowhead Lodge.

The purpose of the meeting is to inform Chickasaw, Choctaw, Mississippi Choctaw, Muscogee, and Seminole royalty owners of the process. An open session will be held from 9:30 a.m. to noon for royalty payment and-or leasing problems. Royalty owners should provide documents that may assist BIA staff in determining and reviewing problems. The staff of: Minerals Management Services; Bureau of Land Management; Individual Indian Money from the Office of the Special Trustee; and a trial attorney from the Tulsa Field Solicitor's Office will be present during the morning sessions.

The general session will begin at 1 p.m. and dismiss no later than 3:30 p.m. Representatives from: Muscogee and Choctaw nations' realty staff; Okmulgee, Wewoka, Chickasaw, and Talihina BIA agencies; Tulsa Field Solicitor's Office; Individual Indian Money; and the Muskogee Area Office Minerals Program staff will be available to discuss problems and answer questions regarding leases and royalty payments.

A representative from the Internal Revenue Service will be available to discuss taxable and nontaxable income received from restricted land of the Five Civilized Tribes. For more information, call Charles Robertson, realty officer, at 1 (800) 238-1943.

Eufaula Dormitory receives funding for shelter

EUFAULA — Creek Nation Eufaula Dormitory has been awarded \$200,000 for the construction of a 1,500 square-foot storm shelter.

The funds were obtained after a year of negotiation between Dormitory Administrator Greg Anderson, Eastern Oklahoma Tribal Schools Facilities Director Rich Willard, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Facilities Management Construction Center in Albuquerque, N.M.

"With our region being known for violent spring storms and tornadoes, it gives us peace of mind knowing we will have somewhere to take our students. I thank the officials in Albuquerque for their cooperation and assistance, Rich Willard for his time and expertise, and the Creek Nation for their support throughout this endeavor," Anderson said.

The funding of this project has increased the amount of construction and renovation funds for the dormitory to \$1.4 million dollars for Fiscal Years 1998 through 2000.

Personnel services clarifies application process

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation Office of Personnel Services provides employment related services to clients, citizens, and employees of Muscogee Nation.

It oversees personnel related aspects for 496 active employees currently and an additional 250 Summer Youth Employment Program employees.

The preliminary application process for job vacancies includes:

- submission of an application and resume to be filed by personnel staff;
- submission of documentation of a Certificate Degree of Indian Blood Card, Muscogee Nation Citizenship Card;
- drivers license, and copies of educational background (diploma, certificate, certification, etc.);
- contacting personnel services by phone or in person; and
- contacting personnel services for each position vacancy.

Applications may be sent to: Muscogee Nation Office of Personnel, P.O. Box 580, Okmulgee, OK 74447; or returned to the Solomon McCombs Executive Office Building, Room 148, located on the tribal capitol complex at U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56. The personnel office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For additional information, contact personnel at: (918) 756-8700, ext. 390; or 1 (800) 482-1979.

Mvskoke lady in "Two Woman Show"

OKMULGEE — Tribal metalsmith Martha "Tillie" Noon will be featured in "Two Woman Show" with Choctaw artist Norma Howard at the Creek Council House Museum.

A reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m., April 4. The exhibit will be displayed through May 2.

The Council House is located at 106 W. 6th St. For more information, call (918) 756-2324.

Citizen to be one of three featured artists

DRUMRIGHT — Eufaula artist Jon Tiger will be one of three artists featured in an exhibit commemorating the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building.

A reception will be held from 1 to 6 p.m., April 11 at the Art on Broadway Gallery. The exhibit will be displayed through May 11.

The Gallery is located at 113 E. Broadway. For more information, call (918) 352-3313.

Student review

Lady begins first season with Southwestern
WEATHERFORD — Muscogee tribal citizen Cimaron Chastain will begin her first season with the Southwestern State University women's softball team playing positions of first base and outfield.



Chastain

Chastain is a freshman majoring in pharmacy and minoring in chemistry; she plans to get a doctorate degree in pharmacy. She is 1997 Weleetka High School graduate.

She is the daughter of John and Diane Chastain of Weleetka.

Okemah boy leads Panthers to winning pair
OKEMAH — Okemah High School senior Vincent Coon led the Panthers basketball team to a pair of wins on Feb. 13 and 14.

In a 77-60 win over Henryetta, he scored 28 points, hitting five of nine shots from the three-point range on Feb. 13.

In the following night's 91-77 rout of Meeker, he made 41 points, hitting 11 of 16 shots from the field, with 13 rebounds and three steals.

Coon belongs to the Wind Clan and Nuyaka Tribal Town; he is the son of the Sweet Potato Clan and Tallahassee Band.

He is the grandson of the Bird Clan and

Mvskoke girls lead Bristow to state finals

OKLAHOMA CITY — Tribal citizens Georgeann Brown, Angie Tilley, and Amanda Bethel helped lead the Bristow Pirates to the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association State Championships. Bristow, the defending 4A girls basketball champions, was defeated 43-37 by Harrah. The team's season record is 27-2.

Brown is a senior and maintains a 3.2 grade point average. She is a track team member. Brown plans to play basketball at the junior college level. She is the daughter of Carolyn Bigpond of Bristow. Tilley, a junior, maintains a 3.5 GPA and participates in: track; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Students Active in Community Service; and track. She is a student council representative also. She is the daughter of Martha Tilley of Bristow and Rick Tilley of Okemah. Bethel, a sophomore, holds a 3.7 GPA and is a student council officer. She is the daughter of Linda Long and Tim Bethel, both of Bristow.



photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Pictured, left to right, are: Brown, Bethel, and Tilley.

Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.

His parents are Billy and Bonita Berryhill Coon of Okemah.

Maternal grandparents are Marie Hale Berryhill of Okemah and Albert Berryhill Jr. of Wetumka. Paternal grandparents are the late Walter and Millie Ann Fixico Coon, Wolf.



Coon

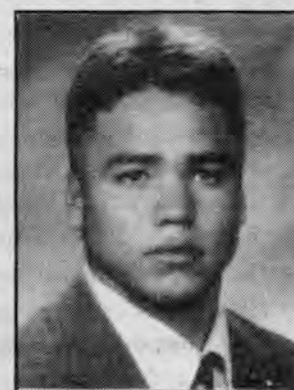
Citizen named all district linebacker

SHAWNEE — Shawnee High School Senior

G.W. Hawkins was named all-district linebacker in Class 6A, district four.

He was named all-state honorable mention. He received defensive player of the year and most valuable linebacker for Shawnee. He is the son of Gary and Paula Hawkins of Shawnee. His grandparents are Andrew and Lizzie Hawkins

and Bobby and Doris Jones, all of Stidham. His great-grandmother is Hattie Jones of Lenna.



Hawkins

Mvskoke boys help lead Sequoyah to second round of state tournament

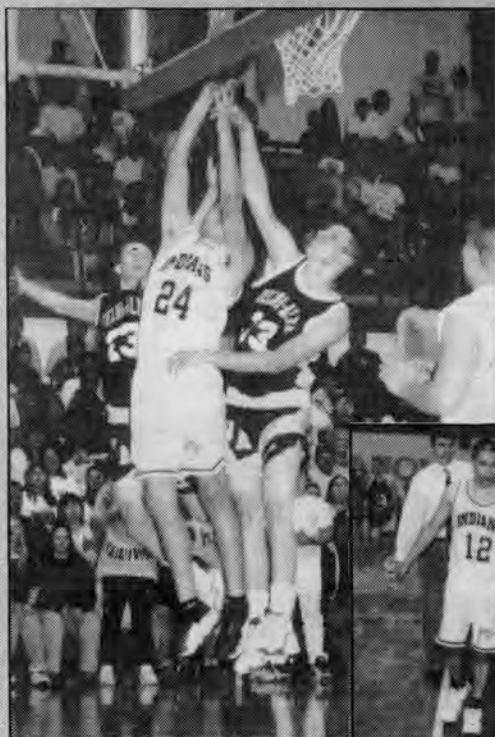
EDMOND — Sequoyah High School seniors O.J. King and Jeremy Marshall were instrumental in leading their basketball team to its first appearance at the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association State Championships.

They defeated Velma-Alma 76-55 in the Class 2A boys first round. Sequoyah Indians were defeated by Hollis 55-52 in the second round.

Its team record for the season is 25-5.

King is the son of David King of Tulsa and Eunice Soap of Tahlequah. Marshall is the son of Dewayne and Tammy Marshall of Tahlequah.

King (24) takes the ball up against the defense. The Indians encourage Marshall as he prepares to take a break.



photos by Stephanie Berryhill

Cherokee chief, athletes attend ceremony

OKLAHOMA CITY — Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Joe Byrd and Sequoyah High School athletes O.J. King and Jeremy Marshall, both Muscogee tribal citizens, attended a ceremony in honor of legendary athlete Jim Thorpe in late January.

The ceremony, held at the Oklahoma Capitol, was held in honor of Jim Thorpe Day which was declared by Gov. Frank Keating.

The ceremony included an unveiling of the Jim Thorpe stamp. It

is the 26th stamp of 30 which are part of the U.S. Postal Service Celebrate the Century pro-

gram.

In 1950 the Associated Press named Jim Thorpe the greatest football player and greatest all-

American Football Team in 1911 and 1912 and in 1920 was elected the first president of the American Professional



photo by Linda Adair

Pictured, left to right, are: Sequoyah High School basketball coach Leroy Qualls; Grace Thorpe and granddaughter, Byrd; Marshall; and, in background, King.

around athlete for the first 50 years of the century.

He was on the All-

Football Association. In 1963 he was elected into the Professional Football Hall of Fame.

Arrivals and birthdays

Maleah Butler

TULSA — Maleah Lyn Butler was born Nov. 10 at St. Johns Medical Center to Senora and Wesley Butler Jr. of Tulsa.

The baby weighed 7 pounds and 11 ounces and was 19 and one-half inches in length.

Paternal grandparents are Nellie Butler of Tulsa and Wesley Butler of Okmulgee. Maternal grandparents are Elizabeth Thomas of Okmulgee and Hillis Manley of Dewar. Maternal great-grandparents are Mattie and Eugene Thomas Sr. of Okmulgee and Rosa Lee Manley of Weleetka. Paternal great-grandparents are the late Andrew F. Butler and the late Thomas Deere Harjo. She has three sisters, Aundrea, Justina, and Wesla.

Emma Perez

WHITE SANDS, N.M. — Emma Renee Perez was born Nov. 10 at William Beaumont Army Medical Center to Sarah "Shu-Shu" and Tony Perez of White Sands, N.M.

The baby weighed 7 pounds and 12 ounces.

Maternal grandparents are Jimmie Wilson and Tom and Susan Skeeter Deere, all of Hectorville. Paternal grandparents are Virginia and the late Guadalupe Perez of Dallas, Texas. She is the great-granddaughter of Nicey Wilson of the Concharty area.

Perez has one brother, Houston, and two sisters, Victoria and Vanessa.

Sisters celebrate first and fourth birthdays

TULSA — Wesla Lee "Chinese" Butler celebrated her first birthday Oct. 8 and Aundrea Rynn "Pumbaa" Butler celebrated her fourth birthday Feb. 1.

Both girls are the daughters of Senora and Wesley Butler Jr. of Tulsa.

Paternal grandparents are Nellie Butler of Tulsa and Wesley Butler of Okmulgee. Maternal grandparents are Elizabeth Thomas of Okmulgee and Hillis Manley of Dewar. Paternal great-grandparents are the late Andrew F. Butler and the late Thomas Deere Harjo. Maternal great-grandparents are Mattie and Eugene Thomas Sr. of Okmulgee, and Rosa Lee Manley of Weleetka.

Tulsa baby celebrates first birthday

GLENPOOL — Nathaniel Charles McGertt celebrated his first birthday Nov. 23.

He is the son of Shawn McGertt and Lori Frye, both of Tulsa.

His maternal grandmother is Mary Kelley of Henryetta. Paternal grandparents are Mary McGertt of Glenpool and Charlie McGertt of Spiro.



McGertt

Wedding

Nelson marries Denny

MUSKOGEE — Rachel R. Nelson and Rev. Milton Denny Jr. were united in matrimony on March 21 at

Principal chief, citizens attend tribute to outgoing secretary

Muscogee citizen Robyn York, far right, a Bureau of Indian Affairs Central office staff member, coordinated a reception and dinner in honor of outgoing Assistant Secretary of the Interior Ada Deere, center, in December. Also pictured is tribal citizen Dan Brook, tribal travel plaza manager, left.



photos by Kathryn Brown



Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver, far right, attended the event held in honor of Deere, center, in Washington D. C. Also pictured is former Osage Nation President George Tallchief, left.

Oldham Memorial Baptist Church.

Mrs. Denny is the daughter of Magdalene Nelson of Muskogee and Keith Nelson of El Paso, Texas.

Denny is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Denny Sr. of Glenpool.

Mrs. Denny is the granddaughter of Mary Barnett of Muskogee and Foster Nelson of Balko. Denny is the grandson of the late Rev. and Mrs. Elliott Leitka Sr. and Philippi D. Begay of Whip-poorwill Springs, Ariz.

The couple have made their home in Glenpool where Denny is the pastor of Solid Rock Indian Baptist Church.



Denny and Nelson

Reunion

Cook Family

YALE — A Cook Family Reunion will be held April 11 and 12.

The reunion will be held in the memory of Rueban Cook, the last medicine man and fire keeper for

Thlopthlocco Tribal Town.

The reunion will begin at 2 p.m., April 11. Easter sunrise services will be held April 12 at Faith Tabernacle, located on the residence of Virgil Cook.

The reunion and memorial services will mark the first since the passing of Rueban Cook in 1965. He was a descendant of Opothleyahola, a Mvskoke leader who resisted and fought during Oklahoma's first Civil War.

All family and friends are invited to attend the reunion. From state highway 51 and C Street in Yale, drive one mile north; turn west, drive 100 yards, and turn south.

For more information, contact Pamela Cook at (918) 762-3011.

Onion dinner

Duck Creek ground to hold onion dinner

DUCK CREEK — Duck Creek Ceremonial Ground is holding a wild onion dinner from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., April 4 at Duck Creek Indian Community Center.

The cost for the all-you-can-eat dinner is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 12 and under.

The center is located at 241st Street and U.S. Highway 75.

Second chief, Miss Mvskoke represent Nation at Indian tourism conference

Representing the Muscogee Nation at the Economic Development Conference on Indian Tourism were Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation Terrie Endres, left, and Second Chief George Almerigi, center. Miss Indian Oklahoma Mistie Dawn Wind, Seminole-Mvskoke-Cherokee, right, also attended a reception for the event hosted by the Five Civilized Tribes Tourism and Marketing Association in late February.



photo by Kathryn Bell

Obituaries

STANLEY FISH

SAPULPA — Funeral services for Stanley Edward Fish were held Feb. 14 at Red Fork Baptist Church with Rev. Tom Shaw officiating.

Wake services were held Feb. 13 and officiated by Revs. Bill and Jimmy Alexander.

He died Feb. 11 at his home in Tulsa. He was born Feb. 24, 1937 in Graham to George J. Fish and Beatrice Chisholm.

He was employed as a lineman with Public Service of Oklahoma, Tulsa. He was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars #1320 in Sapulpa.

He was preceded in death by: his parents, one brother, Melford Fish; and one sister, Colleen Fish.

Survivors include: his wife, Leona, of the home; one son, Kenneth Fish of Jenks; one daughter, Kathy Buechler of Bixby; three brothers, Victor and Elmer Fish, both of Sand Springs and Curtis Fish of Cherokee, N.C.; one sister, Laverne Norris of Turlock, Calif.; stepmother, Imogene Fish of Sand Springs; and four grandchildren, John Evans of Jenks, Kendra and Kenny Fish Jr. of Glenpool, and Amanda Buechler of Bixby.

Interment was in Ada Brown Family Cemetery in Dustin.

RETHA GREENWAY

ARVIN, Calif. — Retha Lorein Greenway died Dec. 12.

She was born Jan. 4, 1915 in Henryetta to George and Cordelia Watson.

Greenway was preceded in death by her parents.

Survivors include: one daughter, Chenena Vietti of Arvin; one sister, Lela Barlow of Port Townsend, Wash.; five grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; three nieces; and one nephew.

MABELINE MITCHELL

HANNA — Funeral services for Mabeline Mitchell were held July 29 at Hillabee Baptist Church with Rev. Christopher Harjo officiating.

Mitchell died July 27 at her home. She was born Aug. 11, 1949 in Hanna to Jim and Eliza Mitchell.

Mitchell attended Hanna Public Schools. She belonged to Pvkantallahassee Ceremonial Ground and attended church at Hillabee. She was employed at Marriott Hotel in Oklahoma City.



Mitchell

She was preceded in death by: her husband, George Deere; and son, Franklin Deere.

Survivors include: two daughters, Lou Ann Mitchell of Oklahoma City and Jennifer Mitchell of Tulsa; one son, George Deere of Kansas; her parents of Hanna; one brother, Larry Mitchell of Hanna; one sister, Linda Miller of Oklahoma City; and several grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Wesley Butler; Roman Hill; Wiley Butler Jr.; Vincent Butler; Andy Ray Butler; and Wesley Butler Jr. Honorary pallbearers were: Ronald Butler; Tony Butler; Roger Butler; and Randal Butler.

Interment was in Hanna Cemetery.

Churches schedule spring singings and revivals

Haikey breaking ground for new classroom

TULSA — Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church is holding a groundbreaking for a new classroom at 1 p.m., March 29.

Services begin at 11 a.m. The church is located one-half of a mile east of Memorial on 101st Street.

United Tribes Fellowship schedules singing

OKEMAH — United Tribes for Christ Fellowship is holding a gospel singing from 7 p.m. to midnight, April 4 at Okemah Indian Community Center.

All churches, group, and singers are encouraged to participate. Concessions will open at 5 p.m.

For more information call Alfred or Nancy Goate at (405) 677-2335. The center is located two blocks south of Interstate 40 on state highway 27.

Wewoka Methodist holding dedication

YEAGER — Wewoka Indian United Methodist Church is holding an all-night service and dedication for its new church on April 4.

Supper will be served at 5 p.m.; services will start at 8 p.m.

In other church news:

• a revival will be held April 22 through 24 at seven nightly. The speakers are: April 22, Rev. Mike Harjo, Seminole Hitchitee UMC; April 23, Rev. Julianne Judd, Angie Smith UMC; and April 24, Rev. Joe Lowe Jr., Newtown UMC. Refreshments will be served nightly. All individuals are encouraged to attend. Rev. David Wilde is the church pastor.

The church is located three miles east of Holdenville on state highway 48 and seven and one-half miles north on Yeager Road.

Tuskegee Baptist Church holding revival

TUSKEGEE — Tuskegee Baptist Church is holding a spring revival April 6 through 10.

The speaker is Rev. George Jesse, pastor of Spring Baptist Church. Services will be held at seven nightly.

The church pastor is Rev. Ernest Marshall. All individuals are encouraged to attend.

The church is located six miles west of Eufaula on state highway 9. Turn south at Mill Creek Bay Road and drive three-fourths of a mile; the church is located on the west side of road.

Easter services scheduled at Little Cussetah

SCHULTER — Little Cussetah United Methodist

Church has scheduled Easter services April 12.

Sunrise service will begin at 6:30 a.m. The church men will cook breakfast for the women following the service. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. Regular service begins at 11 a.m. Dinner will follow the service.

A unique hat contest will be held for the women and an ugly tie contest will be held for the men. An Easter egg hunt will begin at 2 p.m. for all ages. Evening service begins at 6:30 p.m.

In other church news:

• the church is holding a gospel singing beginning at 7 p.m., May 16. Darrell "Spooky" Wesley is the master of ceremonies.

From U.S. Highway 75, drive one and one-eighth of a mile west on Wilson Road. Turn north at the first intersection and drive three-fourths of a mile. The church is located on the west side of the road.

Revival slated at Little Cussetah Baptist

SAPULPA — Little Cussetah Baptist Church is holding a revival April 13 through 17 at 7:30 nightly.

The evangelist is Richard Pickup. J.B. Dreadfulwater is the music director and Wayne Harjo is the pianist. A nursery will be available.

The church is located at 7678 Hilton Road.

Wekiwa Baptist holding outdoor singing

SAND SPRINGS — Wekiwa Baptist Church is holding a gospel singing from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., May 16.

Those attending are advised to bring lawn chairs and blankets. All groups and singers are encouraged to participate and are requested to R.S.V.P.

It will be held at River City Park, located at River City Park and Wekiwa roads.

For more information, call: (918) 838-2817; (918) 834-9776; or (918) 622-6648.

Big Cussetah holding language classes

MORRIS — Big Cussetah United Methodist Church is holding Mvskoke language classes at Belvin Baptist Church currently.

There is no cost to attend. All individuals are encouraged to attend. Millie Colbert of Eufaula is the instructor. The next class will be held from 6 to 8 p.m., March 31. A class schedule will be set on this date.

The church is located at 320 N. Mission. For more information, contact Oscar Beaver at (918) 733-2004.

THOMAS WATSON

OKEMAH — Funeral Services for Thomas Watson were held Feb. 28 at Nuyaka Baptist Church with Rev. Wilson Hicks and Eunice Hill officiating.

Wake services were held Feb. 27 at the church.

He died Feb. 25 in Tulsa. He was born April 1, 1960 in Tulsa to Sam Watson and Amy Hill.

He was preceded in death by: one son, Anthony Watson; one daughter, Thomasena Watson; his father; one sister, Lucy Lindsey Tiger; grandparents, Clara McIntosh, Robert Watson, and Jack and Susie Harjo Hill.

Survivors include: his mother of the home; three

brothers, Sandy Watson of Oklahoma City, Buddy Lindsey of Okemah, and Boone Watson of Okemah; eight sisters, Susan King of Weleetka, Delores Flynn of Stilwell, Ann Lindsey of Okemah, Katherine Powell of Okmulgee, Jackie Hill of Stilwell, Amy Lou Hill of Okemah, Betty and Julius Watson, both of Sapulpa; and relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Chebonnie Lindsey; Calvin Hill; Danny Henneha; Billy Hill; Luke Flynn; and Frank Lindsey. Honorary pallbearers were: Speedy Harley; Richard Brown; and Johnny Powell.

Interment was in Harjo Family Cemetery.

Muscogee Nation quarterly financial statement

Quarter ending Dec. 31, 1997

Prepared by the office of the controller

Program name	Receipts	Budget	Encumbered	Expended	Unencumbered
MCN LEGAL DEFENSE FUND	1,376	73,542	0	0	73,542
TREASURY	10,772	0	0	0	0
LITIGATION AND LOBBYING	2,272	94,476	0	0	94,476
GENERAL TAXES AND LICENSES	192,951	1,332,565	273	251,686	1,080,604
MOTOR FUEL TAXES	0	308,793	0	1,426	307,366
ADMINISTRATION/INDIRECT	1,193	1,968,297	109	345,331	1,622,856
CONSUMER LOANS	5,976	58,767.00	0	50,208	8,558
CREEK NATION BINGO	198,405	2,188,821	100	493,603	1,695,118
MCN PERMANENT FUND	206,446	132,431	0	85,551	46,880
TOM JOHNSON PERMANENT FUND	75,604	0	0	6,576	(6,576)
BEAR STEARNS PERMANENT FUND	10,652	0	0	0	0
CULTURAL PRESERVATION	565	0	0	0	0
TRIBAL BUDGET	7,926	486,868	0	69,105	417,762
EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING	148,676	498,756	(60)	177,862	320,954
INDIAN HOME GRANT	162,539	184,457	8,541	167,780	8,135
INDIAN HOME PROGRAM	15,522	887,154	0	33,768	853,386
ICDBG/INDIAN HOME PROG	0	256,674	0	0	256,674
NAHASDA/EMERGENCY HOME IMPROVEMENT	0	255,542	0	0	255,542
CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES	959	4,270	28	1,761	2,480
95 CCDBG	202,366	357,030	1,407	249,271	106,350
LIHEAP 97	540	3,095	0	669	2,425
CCDBG 96	87,747	1,252,275	550	100,927	1,150,798
FAMILY PRESERVATION 97	19,240	158,148	0	21,505	136,642
CCDBG 97 MANDATORY FUNDS	107,141	2,537,478	18,179	139,703	2,379,595
HEADSTART 97	204,464	419,106	151,887	217,221	49,997
TITLE IV-B	8,650	32,914	0	22,800	10,114
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION	10,908	158,532	0	11,453	147,078
LIHEAP 98	0	70,270	0	0	70,270
CCDBG 98 MANDATORY FUNDS	2,819	1,506,494	0	5,319	1,501,174
HEADSTART 98	50,484	297,387	0	55,143	242,243
BASIC LIBRARY SERVICE	0	4,217	0	0	4,217
ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION	0	13,484	0	0	13,484
LIBRARY SERVICE/ BASIC	(83.78)	0	0	0	0
FOOD DISTRIBUTION	59,229.00	315,378	0	78,428	236,949
HEADSTART USDA REIMBURSE	19,029	38,459	3,000	14,745	20,714
EUFAULA DORMITORY ACTIVITY FUND	1,008	0	0	0	0
ELECTION BOARD	556	0	0	6,076	(6,076)
CITIZENSHIP BOARD	1,816	1,050	0	970	80
REVOLVING FUND	72.33	4,882	0	0	4,882
SELF-GOVERNANCE COMPACT	3,765,856	3,768,204	2,876	681,057	3,084,271
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT DIVISION	(1,419)	51,716	0	(159)	51,875
EUFAULA DORMITORY	83,927	83,092	1,200	73,138	8,754
TRIBAL SELF-GOVERNANCE	0	0	0	0	0
TRIBAL AFFAIRS DIVISION	79,883	479,095	0	89,216	389,879
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVMENT	3,314	5,442	0	5,442	0
KELLEYVILLE BRIDGE	0	138,379	0	0	138,379
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD	3,667	3,078	0	0	3,078
JOHNSON O'MALLEY	100,546	70,798	59	23,059	47,680
EUFAULA DORMITORY 97	976,964	994,986	19,992	158,553	816,440
TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT	2,127	39,597	0	3,931	35,665
JOM EARLY CHILDHOOD 98	0	10,200	0	0	10,200
JOHNSON O'MALLEY 98	81,518	818,900	0	0	818,900
EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING	52,901	21,659	0	8,162	13,496
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	1,537	155,244	82	6,212	148,950
CHILDREN'S JUSTICE PROG.	(533)	89,718	0	2,82	86,891
COMMUNITY CENTERS PROJ.	78,715	529,355	146,069	11,700	371,585
TRAVEL PLAZA ENTERPRISE	60,184	0	0	0	0
ICDBG/LEARNING CENTER	233,417	682,603	0	233,417	449,185
TRIBAL AGRICULTURE PROGRAM	3,611	12,279	0	2,874	9,404
LIGHTHORSE SERVICES	93,914	98,302	0	79,836	18,465
COMMUNICATIONS REVOLVING FUND	491	0	0	0	0
MCN FLAGS, ETC.	49	0	0	0	0
ROADS EQUIPMENT POOL	5,871	139,017	2,700	3,033	133,284
MOTOR VEHICLE	164,733	203,732	16,369	45,390	141,972
MCN CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	21,147	0	0	0	0
TRIBAL REAL PROPERTY AND FACILITIES	14,118	791,527	0	206,438	585,088
TRIBAL PROPERTY AND SUPPLY	12,105	188,353	0	15,608	172,744
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	9,740	112,942	0	0	112,942
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	0	0	0	0	0
MCN FUND — DONATION FUND	1,078	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	7,667,304	25,389,847	373,364	4,258,637	20,757,845

Quarterly treasury report narrative

In accordance with National Council Act 88-70, section 112, as amended by NCA 89-37, the following information for the period ending Dec. 31, 1997 discloses the **receipts, budget, encumbrances, expenditures, and unencumbrances** for all funds under the control of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. These figures have not been audited.

The **receipts** are dollar amounts received for the period ending Dec. 31, 1997. The figures include, but are not limited to, federal dollars received on grant or contract, interest earned during the quarter, and revenues generated by the tribe. The total dollars spent represent the amount spent to date for the first quarter ending Dec. 31, 1997.

The **budget** figure represents the amounts approved as of Dec. 31, 1997 in the annual comprehensive budget.

The **encumbered** amounts include figures derived from outstanding purchase orders at the end of the quarter.

Expended amounts state the total amount that has been spent for each department, within that fund.

Unencumbered figures reflect the net available for each department at the end of Dec. 31, 1997.

Any questions regarding this report may be directed to the office of the controller at (918) 756-8700, ext. 250.



The Muscogee Nation News

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April 1998, 8 pages

Oklahoma tribes prepare for American Indian Games to be held in Cherokee Nation

TULSA — Several tribal leaders officially announced the first Oklahoma American Indian Games to be held by the Oklahoma Amateur Sports Commission in cooperation with tribal agencies and housing authorities.

Cherokee Nation Housing Authority will serve as host for the state games to be held July 10 through 12 at Sequoyah High School and Northeastern State University in Tahlequah.

Tryouts will be held in regions of: northwest,

please see **GAMES...**, page 8



photo by Stephanie Berryhill

OAIG Executive Director George Tiger, second from left, entertains questions during a press conference. Pictured, left to right, are: Apache Tribal Vice Chair Alonzo Chalepah; Seminole Nation Principal Chief Jerry Haney; and Chickasaw Nation Lieutenant Gov. David Brown — all offered supporting statements.

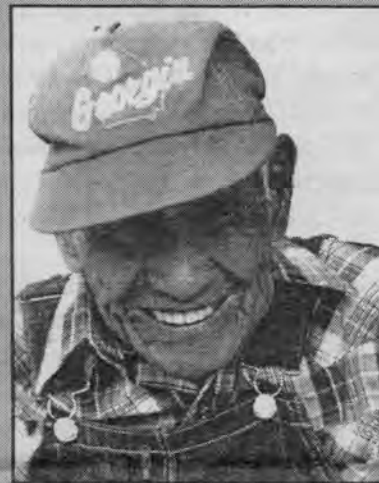
Allottee to become centenarian despite childhood bouts with smallpox, yellow fever, and German influenza

CARSON — Despite afflictions with small pox, yellow fever, and German Influenza by the time he was age 19, Roman Bruner will celebrate his 100th year on May 16.

He is part of a growing demographic of centenarians who can likely attribute their longevity to hearty gene stock combined with modern medicine and conveniences.

Vaccines yet to be administered for turn-of-the-century ills made infection life-threatening. He is of an era when a bout with German Influenza surely meant death for a pregnant woman. With Indian health services still decades in the future, the Indian doctor was the remedy for most sickness.

Our trade-off for the conveniences of technology, Roman believes, is a multitude of undisciplined, young



Bruner

Maskoke not up for the task of culture-bearing.

"Now you all got it easy; government build you a house. Them young folks is living easy, better — but they're not right. They just have a good time; that's about all they got."

Editor's note: Roman belongs to Pakan Tallahassee. He was born to Robertson and Lucinda Bruner on his father's allotment, located one-half of a mile west of the south Canadian River. He is the grandson of Lentie Bruner.

A birthday party will be held for him from 1 to 4 p.m., May 16. For more information, call Joe Bruner at (405) 379-7430. Excerpts of this article are from the allottee series, October 1996 issue of *The Muscogee Nation News*.

In 1898
• William McKinley is president;
• the U.S. declares war on Spain — inciting the Spanish-American War. It subsides with the signing of the Treaty of Paris later that year;
• Ispahcheher was Principal Chief of the Nation;
• the Nation was conducting the second year of a systematic census. Conservative Maskokulke blocked Dawes Commission efforts to access their vital statistics. The commission responded by filing a court order to obtain possession of the Creek Census.

Alabama-Quassarte contingent removes chief, commandeers tribal town headquarters

HENRYETTA — In a concerted effort to overthrow Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town Chief Rebecca Torres, a membership contingent confiscated town property and relocated its headquarters to Wetumka in early April.

The group contends that Torres is not a descendant of Alabama or Quassarte [Koasati] No. 1 tribal towns that were removed from the southeast directly to Indian Territory — therefore not legally chief nor is she eligible for town membership.

Additionally, Second Chief Tarpie Yargee said that in May 1997 the Torres administration did not hold the four-year election of executive officers as provided for in the town's 1939 constitution.

In mid-February, enrollment committee members sought official verification of the membership roll from the tribal

operations office of the Muskogee Area Bureau of Indian Affairs. Their intent was to resolve rumor that some families did not meet membership criteria.

Dissidence erupted in late February after the BIA Tribal Operations office verified that 277 individuals did not meet the requirements for membership pursuant to the town's 1939 Constitution.

It requires that individuals applying for membership be: listed on the authenticated 1890 Census Roll or 1895 pay roll of the Alabama and Quassarte No. 1 towns; or be born of parents that were members when the individual was born; or born of women who were members when the individual was born; or born of non-Indian women with fathers holding membership when that individual was born.



photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Removing property from office headquarters are, from left to right: man unidentified; Rufus Scott; Cecilia Barnett; man unidentified; Evelyn McLemore; woman unidentified; and Ken Tiger.

please see **ALABAMA-QUASSARTE...**, page 3

Letters to the editor

Citizen seeks genealogy information

Editor:

I am researching my family tree and am looking for any information on the following people, places and any of their descendants: March, Johnson, Jackson, and Liley Martin; John, Annie, Alex, and Susanna Carr; Mataloke Harjo, Annie Harjo, and Nuffy Fry; Osage, Ispohoke, Mataloke, and Silee (Sally) Harjo; Hannah Chupco; Toahkoelochee; Thlocco surname; Jessie, Sampson, and Anderson Chisholm; Fultoka and family; Emarthloge; Thomas Chalakee Family and descendants; Euchee Mission Boarding School; Haskell Boarding School; my ancestors attended in the early to middle 1900s.

I am willing to share information that I currently have.

Please send all correspondence to the following address: 707 Continental Circle #1839, Mountain View, CA 94040; phone, (650) 969-8358; or e-mail: jday1@mailexcite.com.

Jennifer Day, Mountain View, Calif.

Man believes Civil War map plotted in error

Editor:

Many of the Maskokulke people have said that the Battle of Round Mountain was near the town of Keystone. I have proof that they were right.

A Civil War map of eastern Oklahoma which has been known in Oklahoma for about 15 years was found to be plotted in error. This map was of very poor quality and, being made from old microfilm, was not legible.

A new copy of this map, titled "Indian Territory," was made by Samuel T. Irwin of the 12th Kansas Volunteers. The later techniques produced a legible quality. Upon studying the map, it was discovered the portion of the map west of the Verdigris River and north of the Canadian River had been plotted double scale.

Perhaps this was the only portion added by Irwin's cartographer since the northeast quarter had been more heavily occupied since the 1830s and was likely already plotted during that period.

In studying the new map, it was seen that the towns were not in their proper location. That is, Tulsa, which is along the 96th meridian, was shown northwest about 35 miles. The battlefield called Chustenalah, northwest of Skiatook, was plotted just north of the Kansas line. Checking the coordinates, it was found that the 97th meridian was marked 96 degrees and 30 minutes.

When the towns and rivers were replotted to their correct positions, it was found that the flag for the Battle of Round Mountain was within three miles of the flag plotted by J.T. Cox in 1864 on another map. It is believed that Irwin may have intended to plot the end of that battle as the flag position is located very near the right position for the end of that event.

That position is east of state highway 48 and the Cimarron Turnpike and in the Keystone Lake's flood plain. Early historians were told the location of the battle was near Keystone by a number of Maskoke Indians. Keystone was one of the early place names in the vicinity.

Robert DeMoss, Cleveland

Woman offended by "thin-blood" labeling

Editor:

Jorene Coker's letter printed in the February issue of *The Muscogee Nation News* bemoans of derogatory racial remarks from others, yet she does not hesi-

tate to sling bigoted and hateful epithets at others.

Is "Injun, savages, bingo" and the other slurs she decries any less demeaning, insulting, and hateful than her own mean-spirited use of the term "thin-blood" to refer to persons of mixed-blood?

Coker accuses "thin-bloods" of reaping undeserved benefits of tribal membership. Mrs. Coker, people qualify for a certificate degree of Indian blood cards by a test of blood — not by a test of Indian suffering.

Much of the funding received by tribal governments is based on the number of persons in a geographical area who hold CDIB cards. Some tribes practically recruit "thin-bloods" when it comes time to be counted for funding and then tribal citizens like Coker insult them for acknowledging the Indian ancestry.

You can't have it both ways — tribes can't receive funding for services based on the number of potential users of services as identified by CDIB cards and then deny services because they don't like the skin color of legally qualified recipients. If you are paid with federal funds, you play by federal rules.

However, if the Muscogee Nation decides it wishes to serve and be served only by full-bloods, then by all means, it should do so. Can the National Council limit benefits or tribal employment by degree of blood? Will it happen Mrs. Coker? No. Not the least of reasons is that no one wants *their* "thin-blood" children and grandchildren to be left out — only someone elses.

From Mrs. Coker's remarks, it seems she would have Creeks stand up and be proud of their ancestors — but only if those ancestors are full-bloods. Mvskoke history reveals a full and rich history of leadership and contributions by mixed-blood Creeks, and we should be proud of our ancestors, including those who married non-Indians.

I would ask those who decry the "thin-bloods" lack of Mvskoke pride or criticize their ignorance of tribal government or history — what have you done to teach them what it means to be Mvskoke? Do you know your own history — the history you share with them? Or do you merely dismiss all light-skinned Creeks as non-Indian outsiders?

The Muscogee Nation would be best served by promoting harmony and vigorously repudiating racial animosity among its own people.

Perpetuating racism and bigotry is now and always has been destructive, dishonorable, and just plain wrong Mrs. Coker. It's just as ugly to discriminate against someone as it is to be discriminated against. Shame on you for not practicing what you preach.

Carol Litterell, Fort Worth, Texas

Woman wants to locate relatives

Editor:

I would like to locate Muscogee Indians who may be related to one of my ancestors.

I hope to contact Muscogee Indians with the surname of Low, Lowe, or Loa — descendants of Sam, William, and Tom Low whose names appeared in the 1832 Creek census.

The ancestor on whom I seek information is my great-great-great-grandmother, Lucinda, whose maiden name was indicated in the 1850 census as Loa. Since the surname Loa has appeared in no other records I have searched, I now assume her maiden name was Low or Lowe. She married James A. Sessions and lived in Arkansas much of her life. She was

born a few years after 1820 and died in 1860. I know the location of James Sessions' grave and possibly that of Lucinda. One of her sons, Robert, served two terms as an Arkansas legislator.

For decades, it has been acknowledged in our family that Lucinda was Muscogee. Because the family originally attempted to conceal the origin of her ancestry, it is now almost impossible to locate relevant information.

Readers recognizing the above persons as family members may write: 3360 Cornell, Fayetteville, AR 72704; e-mail, 70523.3150@compuserve.com; or call, (501) 582-1661.

Marilyn Martin, Fayetteville, Ark.

Citizen elaborates on Chilocco monument

Editor:

I have received and read with great interest the March issue of *The Muscogee Nation News*.

I was especially interested in the letter from Leonard Scott of Oklahoma City regarding the Chilocco Veterans Memorial located on the grounds of the 45th Infantry Division Museum in Oklahoma City.

I was a classmate of Leonard at Chilocco. In naming the World War II Medal of Honor winners from Chilocco, he failed to include the name of Ernest

please see **LETTERS...**, page 8

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to *The Muscogee Nation News*, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in *The Muscogee Nation News*, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of *The Muscogee Nation News*, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. *The Muscogee Nation News* reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate *The Muscogee Nation News* in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Stephanie Berryhill, managing editor

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the March 28 regular session.

Absent were **Roy Bear**, Creek District, and **Jim B. Harjo**, Okmulgee.

The following veto message was acted upon:

- overrode (21-3) the principal chief's veto of National Council Act 98-04 — amending NCA 89-84 setting forth the authority and powers of the gaming operations authority board.

In his veto message **Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver** wrote that the bill "usurps the executive power of the principal chief." Beaver contends the bill, which provides for five board members — three of which are both appointed and confirmed by the Council — entertains excessive use of power by the Council.

- Voting yes were (representatives alphabetically, followed by district): **Roger Barnett**, Creek; **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Kenneth Childers**, Tulsa; **Helen Chupco**, Muskogee; **A.D. Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Bill Fife**, Okfuskee; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Anderson Hale**, Okmulgee; **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa; **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa; **Earl King**, Tulsa; **Harley Little**, Muskogee; **Dewayne Lowe**, Tukvptce; **Famous Marshall**, Okfuskee; **Abe McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; **David Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Tommy Pickering**, McIntosh; **Bruce Smith**, Okfuskee; and **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce.

Voting no were: **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh; **Dave Lewis**, Okmulgee; and **George Tiger**, Okmulgee.

Speaker **Childers**, Glenpool, conducted the meeting and did not vote.

In Council business:

- approved (15-8) a motion to return to committee

NCA 98-21, amending NCA 97-130 — an ordinance approving the Fiscal Year 1998 Comprehensive Annual Budget — and making a correction to the 1998 CAB;

Voting no were: **Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Fife**, Okfuskee; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **King**, Tulsa; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; and **Kelley**, Tulsa;

- approved unanimously (23-0) NCA 98-24, authorizing the appropriation and expenditure of tribal funds from the the Communications Department revolving fund account. The funds, totalling \$1362, will be used for expenses related to the Muscogee Nation Film and Video Competition;

- approved (20-3) NCA 98-26, recognizing the 1998 Creek Nation Festival committee and appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of \$75,000 from the permanent fund account interest for the Festival;

Voting no were: **Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Little**, Muskogee; and **Nichols**, Okmulgee;

A motion was approved (22-1) to amend the amount from \$75,000 to \$76,220. Voting no was **Nichols**, Okmulgee;

- approved unanimously (23-0) NCA 98-28, authorizing the principal chief to enter into and sign the recontracting of the Johnson O'Malley Program and the Early Childhood Program from the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 1999 through 2001;

- approved unanimously (23-0) NCA 98-33, amending and adding new provisions to NCA 97-122, authorizing and appropriating funds for the construction of a military memorial honoring Muscogee Nation warriors;

A motion was approved unanimously (23-0) to amend the act by excluding the executive director and deputy director from the memorial committee and including the Committee of Osten or its designee;

- approved (22-1) National Council Resolution 98-07, confirming the nomination of **Lydia Snyder** to fill the unexpired tribal health systems board term of the late Claude Cox. Voting no was **Nichols**, Okmulgee;

- approved (15-5-1) NCR 98-08, confirming the nomination of **Alef Graham** to serve on the tribal health systems board;

Voting no were: **Fife**, Okfuskee; **King**, Tulsa; **Marshall**, Okfuskee; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; and **Smith**, Okfuskee. Abstaining was **Chupco**, Muskogee; **Snyder** and **Graham** are tribal citizens residing in Tulsa and Okmulgee.

- approved (20-2-1) Tribal Resolution 98-02, confirming the renomination of **Patrick Moore** as Muscogee Nation District Court Judge;

Voting no were: **Nichols**, Okmulgee, and **King**, Tulsa. Abstaining was **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa;

Moore is a tribal citizen residing in Okmulgee.

- approved (14-9) NCA 98-32, appropriating and authorizing expenditure of capital improvement funds, \$27,500, to the Muscogee Nation Omnplex;

Voting no were: **Bible**, Tulsa; **Fife**, Okfuskee; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Gouge**, McIntosh; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Marshall**, Okfuskee; **Nichols**, Okmulgee; **Smith**, Okfuskee; and **Yahola**, Tukvptce;

- approved unanimously (23-0) NCA 98-34, amending NCA 96-03 — dissolving the farm authority board and placing authority activities under the jurisdiction of the principal chief — and repealing NCA 95-51 by granting the principal chief authority to enter into agricultural leases not exceeding three years;

- approved unanimously (23-0) NCA 98-36, requesting a special appropriation, \$17,657, for the cultural office to complete their FY 98 budget year; and

- approved unanimously (23-0) NCA 98-37, approving one-twelfth of the division of health administration budget at the FY 97 level.

Pennsylvania investment firm hired as tribal trustee to correct BIA mismanagement of \$2.1 billion held in trust for tribes and individuals

Tulsa World

OAKS, Penn. — A Pennsylvania investment firm has been named the special trustee in charge of cleaning up the tangled trust funds for Indian tribes and individual American Indians.

The creation of a special trustee to look into the Bureau of Indian Affairs handling of trust fund accounts had been championed by the late U.S. Rep. Mike Synar, D-Okla.

Synar pushed president Clinton to sign a bill in 1994 to create a trustee after the Oklahoma congressman held five House subcommittee hearings over the reported mismanagement of the \$2.1 billion held in trust for tribes and individuals by the BIA.

SEI investments has been selected to provide the trust accounting services.

The firm will provide trust accounting services for approximately 350,000 American Indians who have trust relationships with the U.S. government.

In accordance with National Council Act 93-114, Section 101, the regular session of the National Council is scheduled for the third Saturday in May. The rules of the procedures of the Council only allow for legislation to be introduced through the prior Thursday of the week of the session, with exceptions for emergencies. The third Saturday of the month would only allow one week for legislation consideration. By majority vote of the Council, the following change was made:

May regular session

10 a.m., May 23

Pre-agenda session at 9 a.m.

Alabama-Quassarte

continued from page 1

Torres has not submitted documents to verify her membership, although she believes that when she — as well as other ineligible individuals — provides documentation for review, she will be recognized as a legal member.

The new government contingent disagrees — they believe that she is a descendant of one of two groups of Alabama-Coushatta [Koasati] that settled in east Texas. Some members of these "Texas Creeks" migrated to Muscogee Nation, I.T. around the turn of the 20th century. Because they did not arrive until the late 1800s, early 1900s, new government supporters reason they are not listed on the 1890 Census or 1895 payroll.

The new government appointed Jimmy Buckley chief on March 26, meanwhile Torres is acting as chief also. In late February Muskogee Area Acting Director James Fields issued a notice that the BIA would "continue to interact, on a government-to-government basis, with the Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town officials elected at the 1997 election or their successors" until they have resigned officially or been removed pursuant to the town constitution and bylaws. The BIA has not verified that a May 1997 election occurred.

These are issues, Alabama-Quassarte field representative Gordon Jackson believes, that the town needs to verify internally. "Those are things the tribe needs to be asking themselves.... Both sides are asking the BIA to do things that [it] can't do or shouldn't do," Jackson said.

Originally Fields recommended that the groups settle their disputes internally but recently the BIA requested both parties submit briefing papers legally detailing their positions. The BIA sent the groups copies of opposition papers; both parties have until mid-May to rebut arguments. Jackson said that after all documents are received and reviewed, he will make decisions limited to resolving the issue of legitimate town leadership. "[The groups] really inserted the BIA into the internal workings of the tribe — when BIA is involved, it's like they give away a portion of their sovereignty."

Festival to honor Mvskoke heritage

OKMULGEE — The 24th Annual Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo will honor Mvskoke heritage through cultural demonstrations and related events.

Among activities being held June 19 through June 21, are rodeo, blues and country music, traditional food preparation, an art competition and show, and traditional tribal dancing and a powwow.

Music

Country music artists Mark Wills, Rhett Akins, Rick Trevino, and Kevin Wilson will headline festival entertainment. The acts are scheduled to perform at the Muscogee Nation Omniplex on June 19 and 20. Blues bands, featuring Flash Terry and Uptown Blues Band, The Bill Davis Band, Glen Townsend, and Chebon Tiger, will play on June 21 at the Omniplex.

Joint Festivals run

The Creek Nation Festival Run will be a joint affair with the Okmulgee Pecan Festival again, consisting of an 8K race, walk, fun skate, and a two mile fun run to be held on June 19. The starting line will be at the Creek Council House Museum in downtown Okmulgee. The race is being coordinated by Glen's Road Service and is certified by U.S. Track and Field.

The entry fee is \$10 through June 12 and \$12 for

on-site registration; fees include a T-shirt. The fee is \$8 without a T-shirt. A limited number of T-shirts are available. To register by mail, address correspondence to: Joint Festivals Run, 1304 W. Eufaula, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Juried art show

The Creek Nation Festival committee will sponsor an art competition and show to be hosted by the Creek Council House Museum. The show will begin June 17 and continue through June 21. It will include adult and student art works.

The exhibit will open on June 17. It will include two categories: adult juried art; and student juried art. Each artist will be limited to entering three pieces. Art work will be available for sale.

All entrants must provide proof of enrollment with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. The deadline for entries is June 5. For more information contact, Tillie Noon at (918) 756-8700, ext. 385.

The Festival admission fee for individuals ages 15 and over is \$4 per day or \$8 for the weekend. Elders will be charged \$3 per day. Children ages 14 and under will be admitted at no cost.

Events coordinators

Events with extension listings only are for the tribal capital complex • (918) 756-8700

- Youth Olympics • Thomasine Fife, ext. 609
- Basketball (3 on 3) • Lucas Taylor, ext. 327
- Volleyball • Curtis Hicks, ext. 621
- Art & Crafts • Glenda Washington, (918) 756-9557
- Gospel Singing • Johnson Buck, (918) 756-2917
- Rodeo • Kolby Johnson, ext. 373
- Miss Mvskoke • Julie Criner, ext. 222
- Junior Miss • Rita Williams, (918) 758-1420
- Demonstrations • Ruthie Burgess, ext. 346
- Archery • Betty Hogshooter, (918) 756-7304
- Concession • Ruthie Burgess, ext. 346
- Golf Tournament • Ken Tiger, ext. 207
- Art Show • Tillie Noon, ext. 285
- Softball • Bill Dowdy, ext. 361
- Tennis • Ron Qualls, (918) 756-9561
- 8 K Run • Deborah Harjochee, ext. 301
- Elderly Activities • Lou Tilley, (918) 758-2731
- Horse Shoes • Debbie Yeahquo, (918) 756-1941
- Powwow • Valeria Littlecreek, (918) 623-0125

Tribal royalty pageants seek young ladies, toddlers, pre-teens and teen girls to enter

Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation

OKMUGLEE — The Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation Pageant Committee encourages young Muscogee ladies to enter in the 1998 pageant to be held June 18 at the Independent Agencies (mound) building auditorium.

The 1998 Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation will receive a \$500 scholarship, banner, Pendleton blanket, traveling crown, portrait and other gifts.

Contestants will compete in categories of: interview; essay; traditional dress; talent; oral question; and poise and personality.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be at least one-fourth degree enrolled Muscogee;
- be between the ages of 16 and 21 on the date of the pageant;
- never have been married, nor borne a child;
- live within the state; and
- not have cohabited prior to or during their reign.

The deadline to submit applications is June 1. For more information, contact Julie Criner at (918) 756-8700, ext. 222.

Little and junior miss

OKMULGEE — Additions to the list of tribal royalty for 1998-99 will include Little Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation and Junior Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation.

The little miss pageant will have three divisions: ages two to four years old; five to seven years old; and eight to 11 years old. The junior miss pageant will be for girls ages 12 to 15 years old.

The pageant will be held June 15 at the Muscogee

Women achieve in performance, traditional arts

photo by Stephanie Berryhill

In March, internationally acclaimed Mvskoke poet and musician Joy Harjo, left, guest starred in the Tulsa Indian Actor's Workshop production, "Good Person of L.A." Harjo appeared as a street musician along with Dawn "Pogie" Freeman, right, as the leading character, "Rosetta."

photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Tribal citizen Ruth Cole is pictured with her quilt, "turtle and Gourds," which received best of show at The Five Civilized Tribes Museum's Art Under the Oaks Gallery Competition in April

photo by Gerald Wofford
Pictured, left to right are:

Joby Redcorn, Kiowa-Caddo; Casey Camp Horinek, Ponca; and Irene Tiger, Mvskoke, portraying spirits that answered Rosetta's prayers in "Good Person of L.A."



Nation Independent Agencies Building (mound) Auditorium.

Contestants for both pageants must meet following requirements to be eligible:

- provide proof of enrollment with the Muscogee Nation;
- live within the state of Oklahoma;
- submit a photograph; and
- be between the ages of two and 15 on the date of

the pageant.

Judging for the little miss contest will be based on: poise; personality; traditional dress, and talent.

Judging for the junior miss contest will be based on: poise; personality; traditional dress; essay (75 to 100 words); and talent.

For more information or an application contact: Rita Williams, (918) 758-1420; Mona Lowe, (918) 758-1463; or Pearl Thomas, (918) 756-2112.

Programs-notices

Tribe receives award for financial excellence

CHICAGO — A certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting has been awarded to Muscogee Nation by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report.

The certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting; its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management, according to the GFOA.

The award of financial reporting achievement has been awarded to Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver — designated as primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning report.

The CAFR has been judged by an impartial panel to meet the standards of the program including demonstrating a constructive "spirit of full disclosure" to clearly communicate its financial story and motivate potential users and user groups to read the CAFR.

The GFOA is a nonprofit professional association serving 12,625 government finance professionals.

Opothleyahola Trail markers to be dedicated

CANEY, Kan. — The Kansas state legislature has designated officially U.S. Highway 75 from Caney to Topeka as Opothleyahola Historic Trail. A dedication of the markers designating the trail will be held at 10 a.m., May 30.

Opothleyahola and Loyal Party full-bloods were steadfast in their belief that the federal government was obligated to protect them against Confederate invasion as provided for in the Treaty of 1856.

While affluent mixed-bloods quickly assumed alliances with the Confederate States, Opothleyahola led a resistance against secessionists. He led over 3,000 Loyal Maskokes, as well as many other tribal peoples, to refuge in Kansas, fighting Confederate forces three times enroute.

For more information on the dedication, contact Thomas Yahola at (405) 452-3552.

Air Force requests exhibit submissions

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs is requesting submissions for the exhibit, "Sky Warriors: Native Americans in the Army Air Corps-Air Force, 1940-1997."

The USAFA requests photographs, first-person experiences, and memorabilia of Native American men and women serving in the Army Air Corps-Air Force during this period.

The display, organized by the USAFA Native American Special Observances Committee, will be exhibited during Native American Heritage Month in November. All photographs and memorabilia will be returned. Please submit material to: Attn: Professor Pamela Chadick, director, HQ USAFA/DFPFA, 2354 Fairchild Dr. Ste. 3K27, USAF Academy, CO 80840.

For more information, contact: (719) 333-2416; or (719) 333-3430 or 3431.

Oklahoma Indians have highest AIDS cases

TULSA (AP) — Oklahoma has one of the highest

Child care centers celebrate Week of the Young Child

OKMULGEE — Muscogee Nation Office of Child Care's Okmulgee and Holdenville child development centers celebrated the Week of the Young Child with balloon launches, a parade, and children's art show in April.

Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver issued a proclamation recognizing the week.

To help create an awareness of the campaign, the names of the Holdenville center's students were attached to the balloons. Holdenville youth, above, pre-



submitted photo



photo by Gerald-Wofford

pare for the balloon release. Above, Okmulgee Head Start parade participants, front row, left to right, were: Ryann Wilson; Betty Hogshooter; Shannon Lowe; Marty Solozano; Liz Phillips; and Rita Breshears

rates of AIDS cases involving American Indians, according to a national report.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Oklahoma accounts for 11 percent of the AIDS cases reported nationwide by American Indians and Alaska natives.

The report, published in March, showed that American Indians and native Alaskans have roughly the same rate of new AIDS cases as whites, despite living in mostly remote areas.

There were about 10 new AIDS cases per 100,000 Indians and native Alaskans in 1996, compared with 11 new cases per 100,000 whites, the study showed.

The CDC said Indians and native Alaskans have high rates of sexually transmitted diseases and drug use, which in turn raise their risk of AIDS. They also lack access to diagnosis and treatment.

Homosexuals and drug users ran the highest risk of AIDS among Indians and Alaska natives, just as they do among whites. Gay men accounted for almost half of the 1,783 cases among these groups in 1997. Gay men who injected drugs accounted for 14 percent also.

Oklahoma has the largest American Indian population in the nation. That helps explain its high num-

ber of American Indian AIDS cases, said John Hawk Cocke, an HIV outreach worker at Indian Health Care Resource Center in Tulsa.

In Oklahoma, 304 HIV and AIDS cases have been reported among American Indians since the epidemic began, officials said. About 200 American Indians in Oklahoma live with either HIV or AIDS, representing about seven percent of the state's overall HIV-AIDS population.

Pro se handbook ready for distribution

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc. has completed a free handbook on how individuals can represent themselves in various tribal court proceedings.

"Seeking Native Justice, Guide to Pro Se Form Pleadings Available in Tribal Courts" is a compilation of pleadings from all 38 tribal courts in Oklahoma, designed to help low-income persons avail themselves of services offered by tribal courts.

Executive Director Michael C. Snyder said tribal courts consistently offer parties a less costly and more timely resolution than state court litigation.

To receive a copy of the handbook, contact: 1(800) 658-1497 or (405) 840-5255.

First Native American League of Women Voters established

OKMULGEE — The Muscogee Nation Member-at-Large Unit of The League of Women Voters' formation in January marks the first Native American group to form under the league nationally.

The nonpartisan political organization provides voter service-citizen education through the dissemination of candidate and issue information via discussion meetings, publications, forums, and debates. Membership is open to all Native American men and women and is not affiliated with any tribal entity.

The impetus for its formation was the state League of Women Voters Native American "Get Out the Vote" project in 1996. "Rita Williams was the catalyst, and with her perseverance, the unit is now a reality," said Carol Woodward, LWVO president.

For more information, contact: Williams at (918) 652-7500; or Jo Ann Skaggs at (918) 689-3129.



photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Members, front row, left to right, are: Rita Williams, chair; Jo Ann Skaggs, vice chair; and Rachael Thomas, secretary-treasurer; back row, George Almerigi, Shirley Almerigi, Elise Berryhill; and June Masturi of the Tulsa League of Women Voters.

Student review

Sperry teen to play in Down Under Bowl

Queensland, AUSTRALIA — Cody Andrew Chalakee has been chosen to play football on the All-Star Team of Oklahoma in June at the Down Under Bowl in Australia.

International Sports Specialists, Inc. invites high school seniors from across the U.S. to play against different state teams and experience the culture of Australia.

The 17-year-old is a senior at Sperry High School. He is a member of the Key Club, golf team, and varsity football team. He has received three letters in football and was on the All-District football team. He has played club soccer for 11 years also.

His other achievements are: March student of the month, 1998; All-American Scholar, 1998; Who's Who Among American High School Students, 1997-1998; Boys State, 1997. He is a member of Tulsa Indian Actors' Workshop and attends Bowen Baptist Church.

After graduation, Chalakee plans to attend The University of Tulsa to study athletic training.

He belongs to the Tiger Clan. He is the son of Jimsey Chalakee of Jenks and Cecelia Freeman Chalakee of Sperry.

His grandparents are: the late Susie Tiger Freeman, Sapulpa, and the late Andrew Freeman, Coweta; and Mahala Berryhill and the late Wilson Chalakee of Okmulgee.

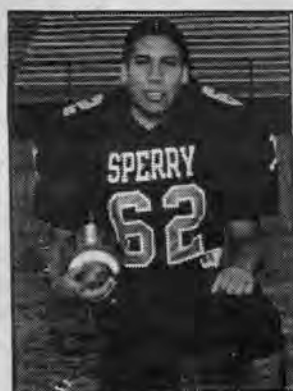
Seminole youth earns superior rating

SHAWNEE — Jalin Keawphalouk received a superior rating for the second consecutive year in the National Federation Festival's junior division held at Oklahoma Baptist University.

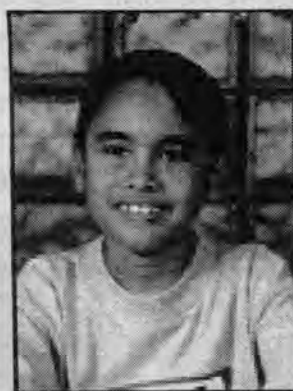
Keawphalouk earned the rating in the piano solo event in which he play two songs.

He is the son of Yotin and Clara Keawphalouk of Seminole.

His grandparents are Hattie Bruner and the late George Alexander of Lamar.



Chalakee



Keawphalouk

Education briefs

University offers Maskoke language course

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma City University is offering Maskoke-Seminole language class from May 5 through June 23.

The noncredit class is being taught by George Bunny and meets each Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m.

The class is available to all individuals. The cost is

Morris freshmen win Depew tournament

DEPEW — Tribal citizens playing on the freshmen basketball teams for Morris Public Schools won both girls and boys' championships in a Depew tournament held in February.

The Lady Eagles defeated Olive 54-12 in their first game. Patty Proctor led the team with 22 points. A win over Davenport placed the girls in the finals. Martha Edmerson led the team in shooting with 13 points. The girls played host team Depew in the finals and defeated them 26-19. Edmerson led the team with 9 points.

The Eagles defeated Olive, 36-34, in the first game. Jess Roberts led in scoring with 12 points. They defeated Mounds in their next game for a 56-40 victory. Kirby Jennings was the lead scorer with 14 points.

The boys defeated Liberty in the finals 53-44. Roberts led the team again, scoring 26 points.

photo by Gerald Wofford

Pictured, left to right, front row are: John Haney; Kirby Jennings; Jess Roberts; Ward Beaver Jr.; and back row, Leah Dillsaver; Patty Jo Proctor; Martha Edmerson; and Jennifer Garner.



\$35 and includes a workbook.

For more information, contact Bunny at: (405) 947-7752; or OCU Executive Vice President C. Blue Clark at, (405) 521-5031.

Dormitory receives grant for learning center

EUFAULA — Creek Nation-Eufaula Dormitory has recently been awarded an \$18,000 federal grant to renovate the school's learning center and library.

The funds will be used to enlarge the area to 1,500 square feet and to purchase new study tables, seating, computer work stations, bookshelves, desks and reference materials.

A previously received grant is being used to install new ceilings, lighting, and carpeting for this area.

"We are very pleased with this grant award," stated Dormitory Administrator Greg Anderson, "this will enable us to create an exceptional learning environment for our students."

The project will be completed and ready for use in August. Anderson expressed appreciation to Dr. Dennis Fox, Deputy Director of the Office of Indian Education, Washington, D.C., whose assistance and cooperation was instrumental in obtaining proposal funding.

Birthdays

Wambleeska Williams

SAND SPRINGS — Wambleeska Menewa Heath Allen Williams was born Dec. 16 to Sherri Freeman of Tulsa and Rodney Williams of Sand Springs.

The baby weighed 7 and one-half pounds and was 22 and one-fourth inches in length.

Maternal grandparents are: the late Ronald Freeman, Tulsa; Charles Wilson of Tulsa; and Lou and Charles Pratt of San Antonio, Texas. Maternal great-grandparents are: the late Andrew and Helena Freeman; the late Alfred and Ruth Wilson; and the late Jess and Dora McLemore.

Paternal grandparents



Williams

are the late Roger Williams, Tulsa, and June and the late Phillip Plummer of Sand Springs.

Citizen to celebrate 85th birthday at Haikey

TULSA — A birthday party for Maymie Haikey Chase will be held from 2 to 4 p.m., May 23 at Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church.

Cake and ice cream will be served to friends and relatives. Chase was born in 1913 near Broken Arrow to Ellis and Sarah Haikey. She is the granddaughter of Ben B. Haikey, founder of Haikey Chapel.

Reunions

Watson

HENRYETTA — The descendants of Stelly Wesley Watson, Louisa Watson Fields, and John Watson are holding a reunion beginning at 10 a.m., May 23 at Nichols Park.

Those attending are requested to bring a covered dish and photos. The park is located two miles south of Main Street on Lake Road in Henryetta.

Yargee

WETUMKA — A reunion of Yargee family descendants will be held at Wetumka Indian Community Center beginning at 10 a.m., May 23.

Those attending are requested to bring a covered dish. Dinner will be held around 1 p.m. Games and entertainment will be provided all day.

Barnett

OKLAHOMA CITY — The descendants of George Barnett, William Barnett, and Jeanetta Barnett Johnson are planning a reunion to be held on June 27.

All Barnett and Johnson family members are invited to attend. A program, barbecue dinner, and activities for children are planned.

For more information, contact Lillian Garner of Tulsa at (918) 585-2656

Community brief

Cromwell community to hold election

CROMWELL — Cromwell Indian Community has scheduled an election of its officers on May 25.

Obituaries

ESSIE CALAMEASE

EUFULA — Funeral services for Essie Calamease were held March 7 at Merritt Funeral Service Chapel with Rev. Samuel Harper officiating and Rev. Clarence Pierce Jr. assisting.

Calamease died March 4 at Muskogee Regional Hospital. She was born March 8, 1931 in Huttonville to Harmon and Fannie Hutton Chiles. She married Calvin Calamease on Thanksgiving Day 1949 in Fort Smith, Ark. She was a member of Huttonville Baptist Church and the American Legion in Wichita, Kan. Calamease had retired from Beech Air Craft in Wichita.

Preceding her in death were: her parents; her husband; six brothers, Carl, Lewis, Harmon, Billy, Eddie, and Scott; and four sisters, Willie Mae, Nonie, Alberta, and Lola Gean. She is survived by: two brothers, Alfonso Chiles of Eufaula and Charles Chiles of Fort Worth, Texas; and sister, Queen Esther Calamease of Eufaula.

Interment was in Huttonville Cemetery.

SARAH HARJO

HENRYETTA — Funeral services for Sarah Harjo were held March 26 at Hickory Ground No. 1 Baptist Church with Revs. Mitchell Taylor and Christopher Harjo officiating.

Harjo died March 22 in Henryetta. She was born Aug. 5, 1899 in Hanna to Freeland and Lavinia Aushwelli Green Lindsey. She had lived most of her life in Hanna. Harjo was an original allottee, a homemaker, and member of Hickory Ground No. 1.

Preceding her in death were: her parents; her husband, Mitchell Harjo; three sons, John, Tom, and Jacob Tiger; two daughters, Mammie Barnett and Minnie Tiger; and two brothers, Columbus and Buddy Lindsey. She is survived by: daughter, Edna Mitchell, Henryetta; 26 grandchildren; 60 great-grandchildren; 40 great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were: Charlie Hicks; Keith Barnett; Elliott Barnett; Lucas Taylor; Walter Taylor Jr.; and Paul Barnett. Honorary pallbearers were: Benjamin Barnett; Charles Barnett; Anthony Barnett; Franklin Barnett; and Danny Lindsey.

BUNNY MANLEY

SAPULPA — Graveside services for Bunny Manley were held Dec. 13 at Green Hill Memorial Gardens with Rev. Earl Dunson and Oklahoma Masonic Indian Degree Team members officiating.

Manley died Dec. 10 at his home in Oologah. He was born March 6, 1901 in Eufaula to Thomas and Mary Manley.

Manley belonged to the Bear Clan and Tuskegee Tribal Town. He was full-blood Muskoke and an original allottee. Manley graduated from Chilocco and Bacone Indian schools and retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1970. Residing in Oologah since 1969, he was an avid supporter local high school football and basketball teams. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Oologah. A Mason since 1944, his affiliations included: Oologah Lodge #343, past director, Oklahoma Indian Degree Team of which he was one of the original members; past master, Daylight Lodge #542; Knight Commander of the Court of Honor, Tulsa Scottish Rite; Tulsa York Rite Bodies; past patron, Eastern Star; past Royal Patron of the Amaranth; as well as the Shriners.

Haikey Chapel breaks ground for new classrooms

TULSA — Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church members held a ground breaking ceremony March 29 for classrooms to be built adjacent to the church.

Following the dedication, Geronimo Alexander, the church's eldest member at age 90, offered a presentation of church history as well as prints of three historic church photographs.

The original church was founded in the late 19th century by father and son, Ben B. and C. Ben Haikey. A brush arbor, erected on the elder Haikey's allotment in 1903 — now the area of Garnett Road and 111th Street — served as the first church structure, said lifelong member Alexander. The second church, built on land donated by Rose Chisholm, was located at what is now Memorial Drive and 101st Street. In 1914 church officials purchased from Chisholm three acres where the church ground is currently located — one-half of a mile east of Memorial and 101st.

The third structure was built by church members and other volunteers with wood hauled from Sapulpa and Broken Arrow, Alexander said. During that era its grounds included nine camphouses, a horse barn, and two dug wells. Dave Haikey donated the church bell which is still used. Although the old church has been "replaced by a brick building," Alexander said, "the old church con-

tinues in use as a fellowship and meeting place." Since 1914, the city has sprawled 15 miles, encompassing Haikey within its city limits, he said.

Editor's note: Naomi Haikey Eades, is the only living child of C.B. Haikey. Alexander and Eades, as well as a sizeable amount of Haikey Chapel families, belong to Tallasi Locapokv Tribal Town — a Maskokulke confederated tribal town whose mem-



photo by Stephanie Berryhill

Breaking ground for new Haikey Chapel classrooms are, left to right: Sunrise Ross; Jesse Kelley; Geronimo Alexander; Mary Marshall; and Jack Spradling.

bers were the first inhabitants of Tulsa, reestablishing their town near the banks of the Arkansas River around 1837.

Preceding him in were: his wife, Ruth, whom he married in 1926; and daughter, Mary Martin. He is survived by: daughters, Tommie Jean Nickell of Hazel Green, Ky. and Bunny Manley and Judy Peck, both of Tulsa; 10 grandchildren, Joseph and Michael Bear of Tulsa; Nancy Richey of Fayetteville, N.C., Carol Bailey of Oologah; Kelly Nickell of Broken Arrow, Kathy Farnsworth of Tulsa, Ruby Brave Bear of the home, Ben Nickell of Jackson, Ky., Gary Peck of Skiatook, Todd Germain of Stillwater; 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

Interment was in Green Hill Memorial Gardens.

BENNIE WILSON

HOLDENVILLE — Funeral services for Bennie Wilson were held Feb. 16 at Hudson-Phillips Funeral Chapel with Rev. George Jesse officiating and Andrew Johnson assisting.

Wilson died Feb. 11. He was born May 17, 1902 in Carson to Charlie and Lizzie Alexander Wilson.

Wilson was a member of Tookparfka Baptist Church. He was baptized on Feb. 9, 1914 by Rev. John Bruner and ordained a deacon on Dec. 17, 1933 by Rev. George Tiger.

He had lived in the Calvin and Holdenville areas most of his life. Af-

ter retiring in 1965, he and his wife devoted their time to church work. He was a regular patron of the Muscogee Nation Nutrition Center Program in Wetumka. Wilson enjoyed attending its special activities and dinners. Because he was an original allottee, he received a plaque for being the eldest in attendance at the 1991 Euchee Boarding School Reunion.

Preceding him in death were: his first wife, Molly Bowlegs; sister, Martha Bettie Degraffenreid; son, Jack C. Wilson; daughter, Naomi Sue Wilson; two grandsons, Justin Brent Wilson and Ferris Craig Wilson; and great-granddaughter, Heather Wilson.

Wilson is survived by: his wife of 56 years, Mollie Bear Wilson, of the home; five sons, Johnny Wilson of Kadoka S.D., Joe Cully of Konawa, Stephen R. Wilson; Simon Wilson of Holdenville, and Paul Wilson of Midwest City; three daughters, Elsie Ruth Dickey and Mary Jane Milam, both of Midwest City, and Josephine Wilson of Ada; 29 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: James George; Holloway Herrod; Samuel Johnson; Tommy Johnson; Jimmie Jones; and Jerry Walker. Honorary pallbearers were grandsons: Michael Dickey; Billy Simpson; Keith Lumpmouth; Brian Milam; Alan Wilson; Wendell Wilson; Kenneth Wilson; Mark Wilson; Jeff Wilson; Stephen Wilson; Roben Shane Wilson; Lance Cully; Rex Cully; and Drake Cully.

Interment was in the Holdenville Cemetery.



Wilson

please see OBITUARIES..., page 8

Obituaries

continued from page 7

DANIEL YAHOLA

OKLAHOMA CITY — Funeral services for Daniel Boyd Yahola were held March 6, 1998 at Victory Baptist Church with Rev. Ray Breeden and Sam Barnett officiating.

Yahola died March 3 at Hillcrest Medical Center in Oklahoma City. He was born Aug. 19, 1963 in Oklahoma City to Miller and Pauline Yahola.

Yahola attended school at Oklahoma City Public Schools. He graduated from Jones Academy, Hartshorne, in 1981. He was an athlete, having participated in football, baseball, and boxing at Hartshorne High School. He married Benita Rivas on July 23, 1989. Yahola was a welder by trade.

He converted to Christianity and was baptized at Little Springs Baptist Church in 1970. His favorite songs were "Amazing Grace" and "Victory in Jesus;" he enjoyed Maskoke hymns also.

Preceding him in death were: his mother; and five aunts.

He is survived by: his wife of the home in Oklahoma City; children and stepchildren, Daniel Yahola Jr., Amber Yahola, and Juan, Rosa, and Imelda Amaro, all of the home; his father, Miller Yahola of Oklahoma City; brother, Sam Yahola of Oklahoma City; three sisters, Augustine Francis, Mildred Yahola, and Patsy Tiger of Oklahoma City; four grandchildren, Bobby, Jessie, Alissa, and Kandalydia, all of the home, two aunts; and five uncles.

Pallbearers were: Bryan Yahola; Tony Yahola; Michael Yahola; Chris Cornelius; Jimmy Cornelius; and Nathaniel Francis.

Interment was in Sunnyland Cemetery, Del City.

Gratitude

We wish to express our appreciation to friends, neighbors, and relatives for the lovely floral offerings,

food, and many other acts of sympathy extended to our family during the loss of our loved one.

We extend special thanks to the following: Robert Simons Funeral Home; Rev. Wilson Hicks; Donnie McNac; Ralph Henneha; Nuyaka Baptist Church members — for their part in the meaningful, final tribute; and the cooks — who prepared the delicious meal served to family and friends.

A special thank you is also extended to Eunice Hill, for speaking on behalf of the family, and Nuyaka Tribal Town, for its donation and members' assistance with building the grave house.

Thomas Watson Family

Hesaketvmeset Likes

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Nak omulkv n hahicvtet
Em penkalit mekosapis

Religion briefs

Little Cussetah schedules gospel singing

SCHULTER — Little Cussetah United Methodist Church is holding a gospel singing May 16.

Darrell "Spooky" Wesley is the master of ceremonies.

From U.S. Highway 75, drive one and one-eighth of a mile west on Wilson Road. Turn north at the first intersection and drive three-fourths of a mile. The church is located on the west side of the road.

Wekiwa Baptist holding outdoor singing

SAND SPRINGS — Wekiwa Baptist Church is holding a gospel singing from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., May 16.

Individuals attending are advised to bring lawn chairs. All groups and singers are encouraged to participate and are requested to R.S.V.P.

It will be held at River City Park, located at River City Park and Wekiwa roads.

Games

continued from page 1

Concho; northeast, Okmulgee, Skiatook, and Sperry; southwest, Anadarko; and southeast, Ada. The quadrants are divided by Interstates 35 and 40.

Areas of competition include: basketball; fast-pitch softball; baseball; track; volleyball; Tae Kwon Do; tennis; and wrestling. Teams and individuals must qualify in their respective regions to advance to the state games. Four age divisions include ages 11 to 18.

To be eligible, participants must provide proof of age, residency by region, and American Indian ancestry. For more information, contact:

- southeast region — Haskell Alexander, (580) 332-0570; LaDawn Wainscott (580) 436-2603, ext. 561, or Sheila Harjo, (580) 436-2603, ext. 549;

- southwest region — Duke Tsoodle, (405) 247-7305;

- northwest region — Teresa Dorsett, (405) 262-0345;

- northeast region — Vickie Bratton, (918) 885-6575; and

- state games — Gary Ketcher, (918) 453-2900; or Lisa Trice, (918) 453-2999; and

- executive director — George Tiger, (918) 224-2941.

The Muscogee Nation News is accepting submissions from tribal graduates for publication in its graduates' section in the June issue.

Student should submit their roll number, a photo, and the following information by May 30:

- parents;
- grandparents;
- awards and
- activities; and
- plans.

Letters

continued from page 2

Childers, a Muscogee citizen who lives in Broken Arrow.

Along with Bill Tyndall, Clem Griffin, Neil Gourd, and Lee Fry, I was a member of the memorial committee which implemented and completed the Company "C" monument project. From start to finish it took four years. The committee spent many months soliciting funds — around \$5,000 — the majority of which was donated by former students and friends of Chilocco.

The Chilocco Alumni Association sponsored a contest to select a design for the monumen; Mose Paris was the winner.

Edwin Moore, Muskogee

Tulsa Creek ladies say mvto

Editor:

Tulsa Creek Indian Community Ladies Auxiliary would like to express their

thanks to everyone who attended our wild onion dinner held in March.

With their support our dinner was a success.

I want to express my appreciation to all the volunteers who cleaned and prepared the onions, helped serve the meals, and sold tickets. They are to be commended for their willingness to help.

We extend gratitude to Haikey Chapel United Methodist Church for their cooperation and support also.

Carol Morris, Tulsa

Editor's note: Morris is the chairperson of TCIC Ladies Auxiliary.

Leaders can learn from youth

Editor:

A tremendous display of unity was evident by Indian people throughout Oklahoma recently. The reason was because of the success of the Sequoyah High School basketball teams from Tahlequah.

For a period of four months, these young people brought together a race

of people from different tribes — old and young, rich and poor, tribal leaders and tribal members — all as one.

In their young lives, these kids do not realize the tremendous impact they made on their people. During a time when we hear about Indian nations being divided, it was refreshing to see our youth take a lead role in pulling everyone together — a simple accomplishment.

The success of the basketball teams was dependent on a simple element — teamwork. The Sequoyah players were not concerned about who would be the lead scorer of the game; their objective was to win the game. Never did one player dominate the ball all the time; the display of teamwork provided an opportunity for each player to score and, in the end, attain a victory for the team. This is the lesson we, as elected tribal leaders, need to learn.

The time for unity and working together among our tribal governments is now. Our tribal sovereignty is being at-

tacked by both the state and U.S. legislatures. We should not be consumed with worrying who the lead scorer is going to be; let's play the game through team effort.

In Oklahoma there are 39 players and nationally, over 500 — each with an opportunity to score in a game that can be won.

Whether it's the chief or a council member, we should all strive for the same goal. The opposition doesn't see Indian tribes as a real threat in this game. Why? They know we are not team players. Instead of setting up the shot, playing defense, and being a complete player, some want to be the only shooter in the game.

Let's be like Sequoyah team players and show the opponent our game is complete from baseline to baseline. Through efforts of teamwork everyone wins.

Editor's note: Tiger of Sapulpa, is a representative to Creek District, Seat A.



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Highway section designated as Opothleyahola Trail

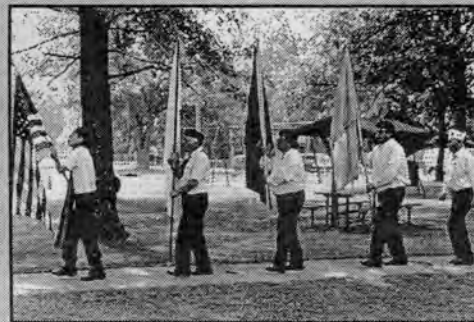
CANEY, Kan. — Over 100 Muscogee and Seminole tribal citizens and Woodson County residents gathered to recognize the leadership of Opothleyahola with the dedication of markers designating a section of U.S. Highway 75 as Opothleyahola Trail.

The Kansas legislature officially designated the trail — which runs from Caney to Topeka — through the passage of a state resolution.

Among direct descendants present were: Principal Chief Perry Beaver of Jenks; Oscar Beaver of Morris; Joyce Yahola Core of Tulsa; Felix Gouge and family of Oklahoma City; Mary Gouge and family of Holdenville, oldest living direct descendant and original allottee; Margaret Yahola Maynard of Lebanon, Tenn.; John Proctor and family of Wetumka; Mary Yahola Taylor and Don Yahola and family all of Lebanon, Tenn.; Harold Yahola of Tulsa; and Thomas Yahola and family of Wetumka. Descendants of Opothleyahola's followers included: Joyce Bear of Tahlequah; National Council Speaker Kenneth Childers of Glenpool; and National Council Representative Barbara Gillespie.



Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver and Kansas State Rep. Mary Compton unveil a marker.



Este Cate Veterans: Michael Wesley; Thomas Yahola; Leo Moppin; Rufus Scott; and Amos Harjo Proctor post the colors.



Tahlahvse Ceremonial Ground's John Proctor leads one of two dances during the dedication.

Tukvptce warrior leads tribe through removal and Civil War

Less than 30 years after removal from the southeast, the Maskokulke experienced upheaval because of a war that did not belong to them.

Civil War secessionist leaders ardently lobbied for the support of the Nation. Liberal Maskoke, eager for opportunities a new political alliance could offer, were quick to make a treaty with the South in 1863.

Opothleyahola and conservative full-bloods were steadfast in their belief that the U.S. should and would protect them against Confederate invasion as provided for in the Treaty of 1856. For them, it was a war of ideology and they sacrificed their recently reestablished property, homes, and lives in honor of it.

Opothleyahola led over 3,000 Loyal Maskoke, please see **OPOTHELYAHOLA...**, page 3



Opothleyahola

Principal chief testifies on behalf of Five Tribes at BIA national budget meeting

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Muscogee Nation Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver presented testimony to the Bureau of Indian Affairs Fiscal Year 2000 Budget Meeting on behalf of the Five Civilized Tribes in late April.

Among priority budgetary issues for the five nations is the desire for funding in the area of trust responsibility. In his testimony, Beaver attributed the backlog of unprobated estates of deceased American Indians — whose heirs are members of the Five Tribes and Osage Nation —



Pictured, left to right: Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver; James Walters, tribal self-governance; and Assistant Secretary of the Interior Kevin Gover.

to the fact that these tribes' cases are not handled by an administrative law judge and that the Muskogee Area Office of the BIA does not have authority to initiate probate actions. Federal law grants Oklahoma state courts exclusive jurisdiction over all proceedings to administer estates of members of the Five Tribes and Osage Nation, Beaver said. There are not enough attorneys in the Field Solicitor's Office to represent all of the estates...in heir determinations and probate matters, he testified. Additionally, many heirs do not have financial resources to acquire private legal services, thus resulting in the current backlog of over 2,000 estates in the Five Tribes and Osage Nation.

Because real property interests for members of the Five Tribes is based on the Indian blood quantum of its owners, the Secretary of the Interior cannot exercise his trust obligation to supervise trust-restricted properties when ownership and blood degree of owners has not been determined, Beaver testified.

"...the procedure as it exists now, operates to the detriment of a majority of individual Indian land owners who have not been provided the necessary means to obtain full benefit and use of their property."

Beaver said that the five nations have requested funding for this priority annually since FY 93 without appropriations. "If funding is never provided, I am sure you will agree that the potential liability of the fiduciary responsibility of the United States to these Indians could be questioned."

He testified in support of the Five Nations Citizens Land Protection Act — legislation that, if enacted by Congress, would place Five Tribes trust activities exercised by the Oklahoma state courts since 1947 — under the supervision of the Interior Secretary.

Beaver also spoke out against the disproportionate allocation of federal dollars to Oklahoma — with 23 percent of the nation's Indian population it receives only three percent of federal monies.

Representative believes Council act takes competitive edge from Nation

by Dave Lewis

As the only member of the Muscogee National Council to vote against the passage of National Council Act 98-02, I have received much criticism.

The act provides for revenue sharing of proceeds from tribally [Muscogee (Creek) Nation] owned cigarette and tobacco stores to compensate chartered tribal communities with existing stores for profits lost because of tribally owned operations.

The act also specifies that there will be no limitations on the tribal tax commissioner's powers or functions to:

- afford communities first priority for tobacco licensing within their community boundaries;
- notify communities of receipt of tobacco license applications within their jurisdictions and ensure that the it has been given a 30-day period to respond;
- ensure that the formal consent of communities, with existing stores, has been granted to entities applying for a license within its five-mile radius;
- ensure that the social and economic needs of communities with existing stores be considered before acting on an application of the Nation to place an operation within its five-mile radius;

• assure compensation of communities with existing stores, by tribally owned operations within the five-mile radius, at the rate of 10 percent of gross cigarette and tobacco product sales; and

• ensure that tribally owned stores submit copies of invoices and other purchase and sales records with its quarterly payment. Communities are afforded the right to audit the books of tribally owned stores from which its is being compensated.

Despite criticism from constituents, namely Okmulgee Indian Community, I stand firm on my reasons for voting against this act. This ordinance has taken the competitive edge from our Nation's businesses by allowing communities to gain a percentage of its profits. This is self-defeating; the Nation's businesses will always be mandated to pay a 10 percent gross profit of cigarette and tobacco sales, regardless of whether the Nation's businesses are making a profit. This bill has set a precedent that will impact the Nation's ability to establish additional businesses in each area of its jurisdiction.

please see ACT..., page 3

Thank you.

Debra Tatnell, Norfolk, England

Humanities teacher thanks ground members
Editor:

I would like to thank Mvskoke ceremonial dancers for performing for Okmulgee High School humanities classes.

We really enjoyed learning about the meaning of the dances and the culture behind the customs. It was a thrill for our students to be a part of such a beautiful event.

Special thanks are extended to: Thomas Yahola, who explained the customs to us; Billy Wilson; Bebe Harjo; and all of the ceremonial dancers who shared their expertise and time with us so generously.

Gaylene Taylor, Okmulgee

Couple grateful for help offered to grandson
Editor:

Our great-grandson, Dylan Jones, was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoid Leukemia in April. He was honored by the Muscogee Nation when it hosted an Oklahoma Blood Institute blood drive for him in May.

We would like to thank Okmulgee Indian Health Center staff who offered him their best.

The prayers, concern, and calls are appreciated. This little boy has a long road to recovery and all of you are making it possible.

Bob and Josephine Thomas, Okmulgee

Letters to the editor

Man wants to contact descendants of chief
Editor:

I would like to contact the descendants of Chief Ward Coachman (Cochamy).

He was born at Wetumpka, Ala. in 1823. He served as Creek Nation chief from 1876 to 1879. He married Lizzie Carr in 1851 and, after her death, married Lizzie Yohler in 1864. Information may be sent to: 495 N. 300 W., Manti, UT 84642.

Peter Case, Manti, Utah

Writer seeks Indian response to Pearl Harbor
Editor:

I am researching the response of Native Americans to World War I and II.

I am particularly interested to know what people were doing on Dec. 7, 1941 when they heard about the attack on Pearl Harbor and their family's response to it. Members of the Muscogee Nation that would like to share information with me may write: P.O. Box 315, Granite City, IL 62040.

Robert J. Clark, Granite City, Ill.

Woman seeks Jones Academy classmate
Editor:

I would like to contact Lewis Harjo Jr. from Oklahoma City. He was born July 10, 1967 or 1968. We attended Jones Academy, Hartshorne, together.

Individuals with information regarding his location or a contact number may contact me at: (918) 447-9946; or 7545 S. 49th W. Ave., Tulsa OK 74131.

Patricia Davis, Tulsa

Citizen believes Head Start staff lacks
Editor:

I am writing this letter in regard to ill treatment re-

ceived at Holdenville Indian Community Center.

My family and I were in town for a funeral. The plan was to serve a meal for the family and people who had travelled to attend the service.

As I understand community center use policy, it is available for tribal community and family functions. Permission to use the kitchen was prearranged. Access to the facility was made difficult by staff of Creek Nation Holdenville Head Start; they attempted to block our efforts to gain access to the kitchen. We were not allowed access to the kitchen until 15 minutes before the meal was to be served.

Additionally, my wife had parked our vehicle in a designated handicapped space, with my handicap sticker in full view. Head Start staff requested that she move our vehicle as it was a bus parking space. There was no sign to designate the space as bus parking.

I am proud to be Muscogee, but am disconcerted about the lack of respect being shown from one Creek to another. I bring this to light because I feel that there is an urgent need for a revival of small things such as politeness, charity, and responsibility.

Respectfully,

Ben McIntosh, Yukon

English lady wants to write Indian women
Editor:

I would like to correspond with American Indian women. I have been interested in American Indians since I was a child.

I am 34 years old and have been married for three years. My interests are: writing letters, the countryside; America; cats; family; the beach; and collecting anything on American Indians.

Ladies interested in corresponding may write: 91 New College Close, Gorelston, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 7DG, England.

The Muscogee Nation News

The Muscogee Nation News is the official publication of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Its purpose is to meet any possible need of the tribe and its citizens through the dissemination of information. Reprint permission is granted with credit to **The Muscogee Nation News**, unless other copyrights are shown. Editorial statements appearing in **The Muscogee Nation News**, guest columns, and readers' letters reflect the opinion of the individual writer and not those of **The Muscogee Nation News**, its advisors, nor the tribal administration. Editorials and letters must be signed by the individual writer and include a traceable address or phone number to be considered for publication.

Deadline for submissions to be considered for inclusion in the next edition is the **third Friday of every month**. **The Muscogee Nation News** reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style, and grammar. Receipt of submissions does not obligate **The Muscogee Nation News** in any regard.

The Muscogee Nation News is mailed Standard Class A from Okmulgee, Oklahoma to all enrolled citizens' households upon request and proof of citizenship. Inquiries should be directed to the tribal communications department. Please include your tribal enrollment number with all correspondence.

Stephanie Berryhill, managing editor
Lucas Taylor, graphic design
Gerald Wofford, photography
Melinda Thompson, circulation

Muscogee National Council overview

OKMULGEE — The following consists of actions of the Muscogee (Creek) National Council conducted at the April 25 regular session.

Absent were: **Richard Berryhill**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Bill Fife**, Okfuskee; **Dwayne Lowe**, Tukvptce; and **David Nichols**, Okmulgee.

Speaker Kenneth Childers conducted the meeting and did not vote.

George Tiger, Creek, did not vote.

In Council business:

- approved (20-0) National Council Act 98-29, a bill appropriating and authorizing the expenditure of \$1,787, from the interest on the permanent fund, to be contributed to the expense of a tribal monument to be erected at Sequoyah Bay State Park in Wagoner;

Voting yes were (representatives are listed alphabetically, followed by district): **Roger Barnett**, Creek; **Roy Bear**, Creek; **Larry Bible**, Tulsa; **Johnson Buck**, Tukvptce; **Helen Chupco**, Muskogee; **A.D. Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Barbara Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **Wilbur Gouge**, McIntosh; **Jim B. Harjo**, Okmulgee; **Robert Hufft**, Tulsa; **Jesse Kelley**, Tulsa; **Earl King**, Tulsa; **Dave Lewis**, Okmulgee; **Harley Little**, Muskogee; **Famous Marshall**, Okfuskee; **Abe McIntosh**, Okmulgee; **Thomas McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Tommy Pickering**, McIntosh; **Bruce Smith**, Okfuskee; and **Thomas Yahola**, Tukvptce;

- approved (20-0) NCA 98-39, a bill approving an increase in the Fiscal Year 1998 budget for the tribal tax commission and motor vehicle registration departments

at \$16,732 and \$35,256 respectively;

- failed to approve (8-12) NCA 98-40, a bill repealing section 101 of NCA 88-14 and section 105 of NCA 88-17 and amending NCA 81-18 to extend the term of office of tribal district court judge from two to four years;

Voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Bear**, Creek; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Buck**, Tukvptce; **Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Gillespie**, Rogers-Mayes-Wagoner; **Harjo**, Okmulgee; **Hufft**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa; **King**, Tulsa; **Marshall**, Okfuskee; and **Smith**, Okfuskee;

- failed (8-12) to approve a motion to postpone Tribal Resolution 98-09, authorizing **Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver**, on behalf of the tribal manufacturing enterprise, to investigate a proposed credit union and development bank, as well as other economic development projects, with Central Corporation, Inc.;

Voting no were: **Bear**, Creek; **Bible**, Tulsa; **Buck**, Tukvptce; **Ellis**, Okmulgee; **Gouge**, McIntosh; **Harjo**, Okmulgee; **Hufft**, Tulsa; **Kelley**, Tulsa; **Lewis**, Okmulgee; **T. McIntosh**, McIntosh; **Pickering**, McIntosh; and **Yahola**, Tukvptce;

- approved (12-8) TR 98-09;

Voting no were: **Barnett**, Creek; **Chupco**, Muskogee; **Gillespie**, Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes; **King**, Tulsa; **Little**, Muskogee; **Marshall**, Okfuskee; **A. McIntosh**, Okmulgee; and **Smith**, Okfuskee; and

- approved (20-0) TR 98-08, a resolution acknowledging and commending the Sequoyah High School boys and girls basketball teams for their 1997-98 season.

Council seeks input on proposed sales tax code

OKMULGEE — The National Council Business and Governmental Committee is seeking written comments regarding a proposed sales tax code to be established within Muscogee Nation.

The proposed bill, National Council Act 98-05, if adopted in its current form, would create a tribal sales tax code to be managed and enforced by the tribal tax commissioner. Revenues generated would be used to support the Nation, its programs, and citizens.

Type of tax

Under this code, sales of goods or items of value on tribal property will be subject to a sales tax. Tribal property, for purposes of this tax, is trust, restricted land, and lands determined to be within a dependent Indian community within the Nation's boundaries. The tax would be paid by the customer at the time of sale and collected by the seller. Taxes would be submitted to the Nation on a quarterly basis.

Rate of tax

Under the code, the rate of the tribal tax is six percent. However, if the seller charges customers state tax — currently 4.5 percent — the customer will pay an additional 1.5 percent tribal tax. No credit will be considered for city or county tax.

Exemptions

Exemptions include: untaxable goods; untaxable buyers; and sellers that do not have to charge tax on their sales. Most notable exemption are: tobacco; motor fuels; sales to persons using food stamps; sales of motor vehicles; sales by churches or ceremonial grounds (except short-term events organized by the Muscogee Nation); and sales of livestock, timber, fish, and crops by the landowner.

Licenses

Individuals desiring to sell goods on tribal land would be required to obtain a license unless all of their sales were exempt. The type of license issued will be contingent on the nature of the transaction and the individual making the sale. Except for short-term events organized by the Nation, Muscogee citizens and recognized tribal organizations may obtain a free Special Muscogee Vendor's License for random sales on tribal land without benefit of a permanent sales location. Such license will allow these vendors to sell goods tax-free.

Any nonexempt individual selling nonexempt goods from a permanent sales location on tribal land will be required to collect and remit sales tax from customers. Businesses taxable under this code are: convenience stores; bingo halls; smokeshops (non-tobacco sales only); gift shops; grocery stores; and fast food restaurants.

Enforcement

Individuals violating the code may be served with a notice of violation. Individuals served will be entitled to an administrative hearing with review by the Muscogee Nation District Court. Individuals that do not comply will be subject to judgement on delinquent taxes, fines, interest, fees and costs of suit as well as injunctive relief including orders to close place of business. Indians willfully violating the code may be criminally prosecuted also.

Send written comments to: Business and Governmental Committee, Muscogee National Council, P.O. Box 158, Okmulgee, OK 74447.

Opothleyahola

continued from page 1

as well as other tribal resisters, to refuge in Kansas — fighting Confederate forces three times while enroute.

As a young Tukvptce Tribal Town warrior, he first rose to prominence as a leader of the Upper Towns with his protest to the cession of the confederated towns' southeastern homelands in 1825.

Act

continued from page 2

Serious deficiencies in this ordinance, which amends NCA 95-105, include:

- community [OIC] compliance with its provisions for an audited financial statement for the past three years which establishes a pattern of profit derived from their tobacco operations and how these profits are being applied;

- it is very difficult to ascertain a true profit loss to OIC since its figures appear to be recapped without regard to generally accepted accounting principles;

- a review of the profit-loss line reveals that OIC had a steady decline in profits throughout the year, particularly June 1997, and thereafter;

- applying the 10 percent distribution concept to OIC figures shows that it would have suffered a \$123,383 overall loss in 1997, but there are not equity numbers to determine whether the business could continue to operate at this type of deficit. Based on this projection, it appears that other entities would not be able to afford a distribution of this nature based on gross sales;

- if, for example, the Okmulgee Travel Plaza enterprise's cigarette and tobacco store does not profit by more than 10 percent, it must supplement its sales to meet OIC's 10 percent;

- if a tribally owned store is located within a community's jurisdiction but outside of the five-mile radius, how can a community justify a loss of income;

- the Muscogee Nation cannot dictate where a citizen may operate a business. The ordinance allows chartered communities to eliminate individual citizens' rights to be self-sufficient;

- the ordinance does not clarify whether community priority for licensing applies to all and-or first-time applications;

- it delegates the authorities of tribal affairs and community services directors to the tax commissioner;

- the tax commissioner does not have a staff or budget sufficient for: conducting social and economic needs studies of chartered communities; or accessing sales records of tribally owned operations to determine gross sales.

I campaigned on the premise that I would vote on issues beneficial to the districts I represent and Muscogee Nation overall. I have researched the legal and technical detail of this ordinance and believe it has serious defects. My vote was not against OIC, but rather against legislation that is clearly wrought with technical difficulties.

Editor's note: Dave Lewis is an National Council representative to Okmulgee District, Seat A. National Council Act 98-02, amending NCA 95-105, was approved (23-1) during the Jan. 31 quarterly session. The ordinance was vetoed by Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver. The National Council overrode the veto (20-4) during the Feb. 28 regular session.

Honoring O

24th Annual Creek Nation Festival

The Little and Junior Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation pageants will unofficially kickoff the 24th Annual Creek Nation Festival and Rodeo on June 15. The Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation pageant will follow on June 18.

The legislated tribal holiday begins in earnest June 19 with the youth olympics, 3 on 3 Hoops Fest basketball, golf, softball, and volleyball tournaments. The evening will be capped with the grand entry for the all-Indian rodeo.

Other events planned include an art show, blues fest, gospel singing, elders' activities, and cultural demonstrations.

The following preview lists some of the Festival's events and competitions. The list is not comprehensive and the information is subject to change.

For more information, contact Ruthie Burgess at (918) 756-8700, ext. 346.

Little and Junior Miss Mvskoke

When: June 15

Where: Independent agencies (mound) auditorium, tribal capitol complex, U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56

Time: Pageant begins at 6:30 p.m.

Other: Judging will be based on the following: poise; personality; traditional dress, and talent.

Miss Mvskoke (Creek) Nation

When: June 18

Where: Independent agencies mound auditorium, tribal capitol complex, U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56

Time: Pageant begins at 7 p.m. (seating is limited)

Contact: Julie Criner at (918) 756-8700, ext. 222.

Youth olympics

When: June 19

Where: Muscogee Nation Omnplex, just west of Highway 75 and loop 56

Time: 8 a.m., opening ceremonies; 8:30 a.m., competition

Other: At one time the Festival Olympics were a national competition. Today, the olympics are still open to enrolled members of federally recognized tribes between ages six and 15. There is no admission.

Contact: Debra Gee or Thomasine Fife at (918) 756-8700, exts. 301 and 609.

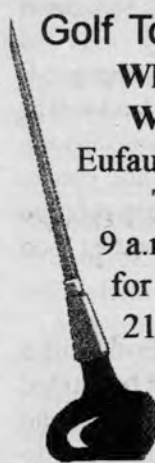


Golf Tournament

When: June 19, 20 & 21

Where: Fountainhead State Park, Eufaula

Time: 1 p.m., June 19, scramble; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., June 20, registration for qualifying round; 8 a.m., June 21, shotgun start



Other: Entry fee is \$50, cash only. The fee includes two-day green fee and luncheon from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on

June 20. Flights include: men's A, B, C, and D; women's A and B; mens seniors' A and B; and womens seniors' A and B.

Contact: Ken Tiger at (918) 756-8700, ext. 207



Fast pitch softball tournament

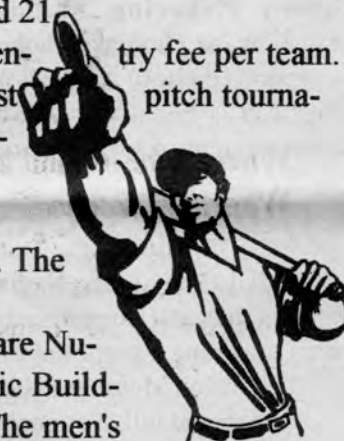
When: June 19, 20, and 21

Where: Muscogee Nation Omnplex, just west of U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56

Time: games begin at 1 p.m., June 19; 8 a.m., June 20 and 21

Other: \$175 entry fee per team. The all-Indian fast pitch tournament is the precursor to the All-Indian State Fast Pitch Tournament. The reigning men and women's champs are Nu-Tribes and Majestic Builders respectively. The men's tournament is limited to 24 teams and the women's tournament is limited to 12 teams.

Contact: Bill Dowdy at (918) 756-8700



Basketball

When: June 19 and 20

Where: Muscogee Nation Omnplex, just west of U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56

Time: 6 p.m., June 19; 9 a.m., June 20

Other: Entry fee is \$40 payable by cashier's check or money order. Entry deadline is June 10. Late entries cost \$50. Divisions by gender and age include: 14 and under; 16 and under; 18 and under; open; and men's 30 and older.

Contact: Lucas Taylor at (918) 756-8700, ext. 326



Art show

When: June 17 through 21

Where: Creek Council House Museum, 100 W. 6th St. in Okmulgee

Other: Deadline for entries is June 6.

Contact: Tillie Noon at (918) 756-8700, ext. 285



ur Heritage

al & Rodeo June 19, 20, and 21

Powwow

When: June 20 and 21

Where: Muscogee Nation Omniplex, just west of U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56

Time: 2 p.m., June 20; 1 p.m. June 21

Other: Categories include the following: men's straight; traditional; fancy; and grass; women's cloth; buckskin; fancy shawl; and jingle

Contact: Valeria Littlecreek at (918) 623-2218



Rodeo

When: June 19 and 20

Where: Muscogee Nation Omniplex, just west of Highway 75 and loop 56

Time: 7 p.m., June 19; 8 a.m., June 20

Contact: Kolby Johnson at (918) 756-8700, ext. 373



Gospel singing

When: June 19 and 20

Where: Independent agencies (mound) auditorium, tribal capitol complex, U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56

Time: 7 nightly

Other: Featured groups include: Ada Harmonettes; Buck Family; Crossroads; Friends; Melody Aires; and Spirit Voices.

Hickory Ground No. 1 Baptist Church will lead hymn singing Friday and Nuyaka Indian Baptist Church will lead Saturday.

Contact: Nathan Buck at (918) 756-2917

Coed volleyball tournament

When: June 19 and 20

Where: Muscogee Nation Omniplex, just west of U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56

Time: 8 p.m., June 19; 8 a.m., June 20

Other: One of the most competitive outdoor coed volleyball tournaments in the area. Entry fee is \$65

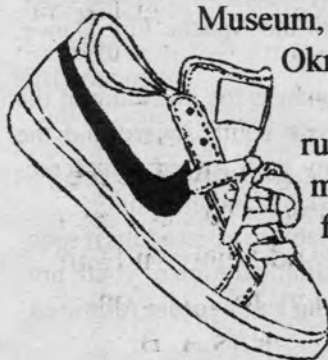
Contact: Curtis Hicks at (918) 756-8700, ext. 620.



Joint Festivals 8K Run

When: June 20

Where: Creek Nation Council House Museum, 100 W. 6th St. in Okmulgee



Time: 7:30 a.m., run, walk, and two mile fun run; 7 a.m., fun skate

Other: The entry fee is \$10 through June 12 and \$12 for on-site registration; the fee is \$8 without a T-shirt.

Contact: Deborah Harjochee at (918) 756-8700, ext. 301

Archery

When: June 20 and

21

Where: Muscogee Nation Omniplex, just west of U.S. Highway 75 and loop 56

Time: 8 a.m., June 20; 1 p.m. June 21

Other: Entry fee is \$8, June 20; \$3, June 21

Contact: Betty Hogshooter at (918) 756-7304



Tennis

When: June 20 and 21

Where: Okmulgee City Tennis Courts

Time: 8 a.m.

Other: Entry fee is \$5 per event. Events will include: men's open and intermediate singles and doubles; men's 35 and over singles; women's open and intermediate singles and doubles; women's 35 and over singles; and mixed doubles. Boys and girls are eligible to enter open and intermediate events.

Contact: Ron Qualls at 1 (800) 259-8504 or (918) 756-9561



Elders' activities

When: June 20

Where: Okmulgee Nutrition Center

Time: 9 to 9:15 a.m., registration, arts and craft booth

Other: 9:30 a.m. horseshoe and domino tournaments; 10:30 a.m., dart contest; noon, buffet; 1 p.m., gift walk; and 2 p.m., shuffleboard contest

Contact: Lou Tilley at (918) 758-2727

Programs-notices

Medicare, social security not limited to adults
OKEMAH — Medicaid is expanding its coverage to assist coverage medical bills of children and pregnant women.

Medicare health insurance program is for people 65 years of age or older. There are two parts to medicare: Part A, which covers hospital expenses; and Part B, which covers doctors' office expenses.

Individuals ages 65 or older, who are blind or have a disability, may qualify for Social Security income. Social Security is not limited to adults, disabled and blind children may qualify also.

For more information, you may contact Creek Nation Community Hospital Patient Benefits Coordinator Allen Wind at (918) 623-1424, ext. 343. His office is located at the hospital in Okemah.

Caring for our elders conference to be held

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma State University Wellness Center is sponsoring, in conjunction with the Flames of Wellness Education Series, "Caring For Our Elders: Continuing the Circle of Life" conference on June 10 through 13 at the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center in Oklahoma City.

The conference will provide an opportunity to explore new ideas and share expertise regarding elder care for American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Nationally known speakers will present information that can be used to develop new programs for elder care or enhance the caring process for elders.

Lou J. Tilley, Muscogee Nation Elderly Nutrition Program Manager, will be one of the conference speakers. Her presentation will focus on commitment to elders, traditions and cultures.

For more information, contact the Clarion Hotel and Conference Center at 1 (800) 741-2741.

Indian health care breaks ground for center

TULSA — Tulsa American Indians and community supporters gathered in May to break ground for the construction of a new center for the Indian Health Care Resource Center.

Flintco, Inc., will supervise construction of the new \$3 million, 27,000 square-foot, outpatient medical facility.

The construction of the new, larger health facility will enable IHCRC to consolidate all of its existing services under one roof. The new facility is the keystone of IHCRC's strategic plan to relocate from its existing downtown facility to a modern facility of adequate size and high quality.

The physical expansion of IHCRC facility will make it possible to more efficiently and effectively address the health needs of Tulsa area American Indians.

Special honored guests attending the ceremony were: Tulsa Mayor M. Susan Savage; Indian Health Care Board President Linda Sconyers; IHCRC Board Facilities Committee Chair Jim Cameron; and Indian Health Care Resource Center Executive Director, Carmelita Skeeter.

Rev. Bill Thompson of All Tribes Community Church conducted the opening prayer. Sister Sylvia Schmidt, Executive Director of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministries, offered a closing benediction prayer.

Sapulpa, Indian Health Center holds open house

SAPULPA — Citizens and tribal officials attended an open house held by Sapulpa Indian Health Center in an effort to strengthen the staff-patient relationship in May.

Sapulpa Health Systems Administrator Judy Aaron stressed the importance of community input and how individual involvement is needed in order to progress toward and maintain quality health care. Guests were given a guided tour of each department within the facility and offered the opportunity for one-on-one conversations with staff members.



photos by Lucas Taylor
 Above, pictured left to right: National Council Speaker Ken Childers; Creek District Representative Roger Barnett; Wagoner-Rogers-Mayes Rep. Barbara Gillespie; Sandra Watashe, nurse's assistant; Mariam Beaver, tribal citizen; and Sharon Floyd, registered nurse supervisor.

Left, pictured left to right: Sapulpa Health Center Administrator Judy Aaron; Childers; Principal Chief R. Perry Beaver; Barnett; and Dr. Kathy Stubbs, clinical director.

Youth and adult computer classes available

HENRYETTA — The Richardson Company is offering classes to individuals interested in learning about the internet, electronic mail, and other software.

A computer camp will be offered to children and adults during the months of June, July, and August also. Classes are available to meet the needs of individuals and groups.

From U.S. Highway 75, drive one and one-quarter miles west on Wilson Road. Turn north at the first intersection and drive one and one-fourth miles to the home with a white iron fence.

For more information, call Susan Doty at (918) 652-4747.

Scouting seminar to be held at Cameron

LAWTON — The American Indian Scouting Association will hold its 41st annual seminar for youth and adults at Cameron University July 25 through 29. The host tribe will be the Chiricahua Ft. Sill Apache.

Participants will include both Indian and non-Indian youth ages 12 to 17 and adults who explore strategies for youth development of life in Indian communities through Girl and Boy Scouting programs and services. Participants will also share tribal traditions through native dress, dancing, music, sports and a tour of the tribal facilities. Also, a traditional meal and cultural night, complete with the Apache Fire Dance, will be held during the week.

A highlight of the seminar is the awarding of the national Joseph T. Provost Youth Award and the Francis X. Guardipee Grey Wolf Award, which recognizes distinguished service to Indian youth.

Workshops will be available to assist adults responsible for leadership and administration of youth programs by providing training and a forum for the exchange of ideas.

The fee for the seminar is \$129 for adults and youth. After June 25 the fee will increase by \$20. The fee includes room and board and membership. Funds are available for Youth Scholarship Grants based on financial need.

For more information, call Charlotte Barker at (803) 754-7037

Association promotes stroke awareness

OKLAHOMA — The American Heart Association, the largest voluntary health organization fighting cardiovascular diseases and stroke, designated May as Stroke Awareness Month.

The AHA's main objective was to raise public awareness about the risk factors and warning signs of stroke and what to do when stroke occurs.

This year's theme is "Stroke Is a Medical Emergency: Call 911!" The moment an individual experiences one or more signs of brain attack, medical help should be sought immediately, recommends the association.

Early detection and treatment of stroke may prevent some of its injury to the brain. New treatment therapies require immediate, rapid response within three hours of stroke occurrence.

Some of the warning signs of brain attack are: sudden weakness or numbness on one side of the body; loss of vision; loss of speech; and unexplained dizziness.

Stroke is largely preventable by practicing healthy life-style habits that reduce the risk of heart disease and stroke. For more information, call the American Heart Association office at 1 (888) 242-0280.

Tribal citizen opens drapery outlet

HENRYETTA — Tribal citizen Jimmie Wadsworth recently opened Designer Drapery Outlet located on 318 W. Main.

Drapery fabrics are sold at 50 to 80 percent off retail price. The outlet has an inventory of 500 rolls of fabric. It also sells: quilts batting on the roll; poly-cotton rag rug ends by the pound; and lace trim.

Business hours are from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Customers receive a five percent discount with the presentation of their tribal citizenship card.

Society-education

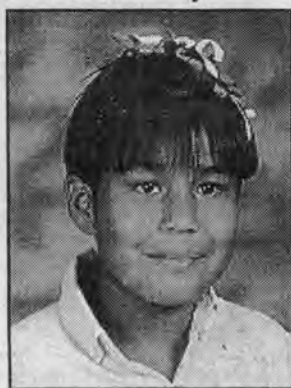
Okemah girl celebrates 10th birthday

OKEMAH — Shanise Coon celebrated her 10th birthday April 27.

She is in the fourth grade and attends Bearden School.

Coon is the daughter of Shellia Harjo of Okmulgee.

Her maternal grandparents are Naomi Harjo and Gary Mitchell of Okemah and the late J.W. Harjo.



Coon

Beaver ends reign as Miss Contraband

KINDER, La. — Haikey Star Beaver ended her reign as Miss Contraband in April.

Miss Contraband is part of the longest running festival in Louisiana, Contraband Days. She served as a goodwill ambassador, visited festivals throughout Louisiana, and promoted the City of Lake Charles.

Haikey, a descendant of Locapokv Tribal Town, is the daughter of Vance and Barbara Beaver of Kinder, La.

She is the granddaughter of the late Stella and Amos Beaver of Broken Arrow and the great-granddaughter of Jennetta Haikey Beaver Bland.



Beaver

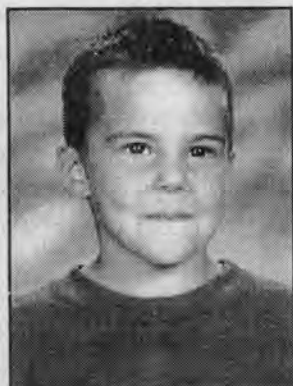
Coweta boys earns All-American status

COWETA — Wrestling USA Magazine has selected A.J. Brown as a member of the 1998 Asics Future Champions Team for wrestlers in the first through eighth grades. This distinguishes him as the youngest Coweta athlete to earn All-American status.

Brown, a first grader at Northwest Elementary wrestled in Division I, age six and under at 66 pounds. He placed first at the Tulsa nationals, U.S. junior open, and the Oklahoma regional and state competitions on his way to completing a 29-0 season.

He is the son Matt and Lea Ann Brown of Coweta.

He is the maternal grandson of Chuck and Ann Grider of Haskell. Paternal grandparents are Pat and Dwain Sanders and Bill Brown, all of Coweta.



Brown

Okemah native accepted to music institute

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. — Jamie Coon has been accepted to the Music Institute.

The 20 year old institute is specifically designed

Yargee family celebrates mother's 72nd birthday

WETUMKA — Winey Scott Yargee celebrated her 72nd birthday March 21 at the Wetumka Indian Baptist Church.

Approximately 70 people attended the potluck dinner.

Winey, a resident of Holdenville, was born March 17, 1926.

Special guests were: Pastor Alex Buck; Geraldine and Turner Scott; Jim and Minnie Yargee Wesley; and Wetumka church members.

Her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren were present to celebrate her birthday also.



photo submitted

Pictured, front row, left to right, are: Rovena Wayne Yargee; Bessie Talamasey; and Evelyn McLemore; middle row, Turner Scott; Winey Scott Yargee; Jack Yargee; Dave Yargee; Josephine Robinson; and back row, Phillip Yargee; Robert Yargee; Henry Yargee; Wallace Yargee; and Tarpie Yargee.

for musicians, teaching them about the music industry. Such musicians as B.B. King and Eric Clapton have recorded albums there. Coon is a 1997 graduate of Okemah High School. She played drums in the high school band for eight years.

Currently, she is in a band and has performed publicly for special events. Coon recently recorded a demo tape in Tulsa.

She is the daughter of Wendell and Shelia Coon of Okemah.

Lawrence youth participates in powwow

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kara Hicks was the head girl dancer at Lawrence Indian Education Program's 5th Annual Powwow held in May.

Hicks is in the second grade and attends Broken Arrow Elementary School

Her parents are Curtis Hicks of Mason and Caroline Hicks of Lawrence.

She is the paternal granddaughter of Hanson Hicks and Agnes Hicks of Okemah. Maternal grandparents are Ron and Bernadine Eastman of Oneida, New York.



Hicks

Reunions

Bruner family

WETUMKA — The Bruner family reunion will be held at Middle Creek No. 1 Church beginning at 6 p.m. on July 3 and 4 p.m. on July 4.

A wiener roast and story-telling will be held on July 4. Those attending are requested to bring a covered dish and a garage sale item.

For more information, contact Joe Bruner at (405) 379-7430.

Coker family

SEMINOLE — The descendants of London Coker and Mary Washburn are holding the 33rd Annual Coker Family Reunion beginning at 10 a.m. on June 5 and 6.

A tour of the first Coker homesite and cemeteries is scheduled for June 5. Those attending are requested to bring a brown bag lunch and meet at Mary F. McCormick's home located at 2039 N. Ideal.

Those attending June 6 are requested to bring a covered dish, an item for the silent auction fund raiser, and old photos or historical information on the Coker family to Kaney Chapel. It is located three and one-half miles east of Bowlegs on state Highway 59.

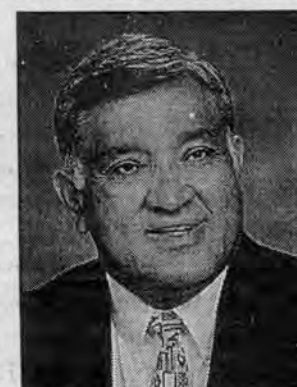
For more information, contact Mary F. McCormick at (405) 382-3836.

Principal chief inducted to Northeast Louisiana University Sports Hall of Fame

MONROE, La. — Principal Chief Perry Beaver was inducted into Northeast Louisiana University's Sports Hall of Fame before a packed house of family, friends, coaches, and teammates at Ewing Coliseum.

Beaver played football for the university in 1959 and 60. Ironically, he was known as "The Chief" during his stay at Northeast. In 1961, he was signed as a free agent to play football for the Green Bay Packers by legendary coach Vince Lombardi.

In his response to being inducted Beaver said: "I am honored and humbled to be a part of a prestigious and momentous occasion. I am very proud to represent Northeast Louisiana University and feel blessed about the good things and success I have enjoyed, whether it was as a football player, coach, or as principal chief of my people."



Beaver

Obituaries

BENJAMIN EUNAH GIVENS JR.

WETUMKA — Funeral Services for Benjamin Eunah Givens Jr. were held Feb. 6 at Sand Creek Baptist Church with Revs. Harry Anderson and Bill Hobia officiating.

He died Feb. 3 at Columbia Regional Medical Center in Tulsa. He was born July 28, 1976 in Claremore to Benjamin Eunah and Martha Hobia Givens.

Givens graduated from Wetumka Public Schools in 1994. He received nurse's aid certification from Wes Watkins Vocational Technical School. He attended Rose State College in Midwest City also. He had been employed at several area nursing home facilities. Givens was a Red Cross volunteer and had been cited for his service during the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Building.

He was a longtime member of Sand Creek Baptist Church where he served as a church pianist. Givens was active in mission programs with the Muscogee-Seminole-Wichita Baptist Association.

He was preceded in death by: his grandparents, Mary Givens; and Louis and Agnes Hobia.

He is survived by: his parents; two brothers, Louis and Brian Givens of the home; three sisters, Semvthoye, Mary, and Justina Givens of the home; nephew, Justin Rhinehart of the home; grandfather, Eunah Givens; two great-uncles, Revs. Johnson Roberts of Dustin and James Wesley of Wetumka; three great-aunts, Susie Martinez, Minnie Wesley, and Leona Givens of Wetumka; eight uncles, Jesse, Sonny, and Michael Givens of Wetumka, Rev. Bill Hobia of Seminole, Melford Hobia of Weleetka, Wilburn Hobia of Oklahoma City, Tiger Hobia of Weleetka, and Ricky Hobia of Wetumka; four aunts, Millie Scott, June Fixico, Mary Givens, and Fannie Hobia, all of Wetumka; and several relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Jesse Givens; Michael Givens; Sonny Givens; Tiger Hobia, Ricky Hobia; and Brian Givens.

Interment was in Sand Creek Cemetery.

AMBURS HERRON JR.

COUNCIL HILL — Funeral services for Amburs F. "Bud" Herron Jr. were held March 21 at Elm Grove Baptist Church with Rev. Jerry Southern officiating.

Herron died March 18 in Tahlequah. He was born Nov. 12, 1916 in Council Hill to Amburs F. and Ola Brown Herron.

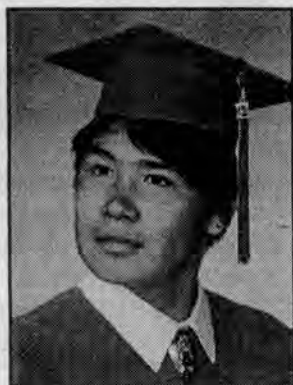
He was united in marriage to Esther Pruitt. He was a lifelong resident of the Council Hill area. Herron was a retired laborer. He was a member of Elm Grove Baptist Church and the American Legion in Boynton.

Preceding him in death were: his parents; his wife; and brother, Woodrow Herron.

He is survived by: sister-in-law, Verda Herron; three nieces; many great-nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Elm Grove church members served as casketbearers.

Interment was in Council Hill Cemetery.



Givens

GERTRUDE JOHN

SAPULPA — Funeral services for Gertrude Elizabeth John were held March 16 at Smith Funeral Chapel with Rev. Newman Kelly officiating.

Wake services were March 15 at the home with Yuchi Tribal Speaker Newman Littlebear officiating and Mose Cahwee and Rev. John Fixico assisting.

John died March 12 at St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa. She was born Aug. 10, 1913 in Sapulpa to Legus G. and Esther M. Brown.

John attended Haskell and Eufaula Boarding schools. She was a direct descendant of Yuchi Chief Samuel W. Brown Sr. She was united in marriage to Riley John in 1935. John was a homemaker.

Preceding her in death were: her parents; her husband; son, Riley; and 12 brothers and sisters.

She is survived by: three daughters, Juanita Bowman, Wanda Hill, and Jeniece Wolfe, all of Sapulpa; 11 grandchildren; 31 great-grandchildren; six great-great grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers were: Daniel Wolfe; Ronald Hill; Russell Hill; Craig Cassaday; Darby Cassaday; and Eugene Freeman. Honorary pallbearers were: Luther Tiger; Paul Tiger; Cecil Tiger; Bill Gibson; Tim Brown; Rudy Thomas; Gary Thomas; and Mike Hammer.

Interment was in South Heights Cemetery.

GEORGIA PERRYMAN

GLENDALE, Calif. — Funeral services for Georgia Mae Taylor Perryman were held April 4 at Church of the Reconciliation with Rev. George Brincat officiating.

Perryman died March 30. She was born Nov. 10, 1907 in Coweta to William and Rosa Grayson Taylor.

Perryman attended Eufaula Boarding School. She worked as a nurse's aid in Oklahoma and at St. Bernadine's Hospital, San Bernardino, Calif. Perryman was a foster parent for 20 years. She had many pets, including chickens, pigeons, cats, and dogs.

Preceding her in death were: her parents; her son, Phillip; and five siblings.

She is survived by: two sons, Dreafus Perryman of Oregon and John Perryman of the home; six grandchildren; eight-great-grandchildren; and many relatives and friends.

Pallbearers were: Dreafus Perryman; Rene' Perryman; Bernie Salinas; Dario Perryman; Deidre Perryman Vasquez; and Victor Curry. Family and friends served as honorary pallbearers.

Interment was in Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale.

LUCINDA WALKINGSTICK

SAPULPA — Funeral services for Lucinda Walkingstick were held at Smith Funeral Home on March 12 with Revs. Bill Alexander and Jimmy Alexander officiating.

Prayer services were held at Smith Funeral Home March 10. Wake services were held March 11 at Oakhurst Indian Fellowship Baptist Church.

She died March 9. Walkingstick was born Jan. 19, 1916 in Holdenville.

She was united in marriage to Henry Walkingstick in 1944.

She was preceded in death by: her husband; her mother, Ida Harjo; and two sons, John and Daniel Walkingstick.

She is survived by: two sisters, Alice Stevens of Tulsa and Mattie Lou Factor of Sasakwa; five children,

Wynema Williams of Boise, Idaho, Frank Johnson of Oakhurst, Roman Johnson of Anadarko, Rowena Johnson of Albuquerque, N.M., Leona Harjo of Oakhurst, and Irene Creek of Tulsa; 18 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers were: Jerry Wilson; Alfred Wilson; James Factor; Bryan Canady; Gerald Wofford; and Johnny Roy. Honorary pallbearers were: Anthony Johnson and Tom Tiger.

Interment was in Greenhill Memorial Gardens in Sapulpa.

Gratitude

We would like to thank the following people and organizations for the many flowers, prayers, and words of encouragement during our recent loss: Principal Chief Perry Beaver and Mariam Beaver; Second Chief George Almerigi and Shirley Almerigi; Muscogee Nation Social Services; Muscogee Nation Lighthorsemen, Rev. Jimmy Hill; Andrew Johnson; Chickasaw Nation; Spring Indian Church; J.W. Buck; Holdenville Indian Community; American Legion Hut, Holdenville; Christine Wolf; Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Gooden; Americare Home Health Services; Charlotte Herbert; Alliance Home Health Care; Oklahoma Association of Area Agencies on Aging; and many others.

Bennie Wilson Family

Religion

Wekiwa to holding bible school and singing

SAND SPRINGS — Wekiwa Baptist Church is holding a kickoff party from 2 to 6 p.m., June 6 for its vacation bible school.

The party will include the display of the Sand Springs Fire Department Engine and Kids Korner Crusaders' Puppet Show, and games. Vacation bible school will be held from 7 to 9 p.m., June 8 through 12 for ages two to adults. For more information, call Rick Neil at (918) 622-6648.

A gospel singing will follow party activities; supper will be served at 6 p.m. and the singing will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. All activities will be held at the church located at 16940 W. Wekiwa Road.

Wewoka holding "Coming Home Reunion"

WEWOKA — Wewoka Indian Baptist Church is holding its "Coming Home Reunion" June 12 through 14.

Those attending are encouraged to camp on the church grounds throughout the weekend. Registration of campers will begin at 4 p.m.; meal tickets will be issued also. A wiener roast will begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by an all-night service.

At 10 a.m., June 13th the reminiscing of photographs and stories will be held. A picnic lunch will be served. At 2 p.m. native singing will begin, followed by a hog fry at 5 p.m. The Fourth Annual Memorial Singing featuring the Buck Family will begin at 7 p.m. in memory of Rev. Elliott and Cora Leitka.

On June 14th, Sunday school will begin at 9:30 a.m. At 10:30 a.m. a memorial to church members who lost their lives in war will be held.

For more information, contact: Pastor Reuben Kinney at (405) 257-3898, Sarah Ward at (405) 275-7513, or Loretta Denny at (918) 322-3385.